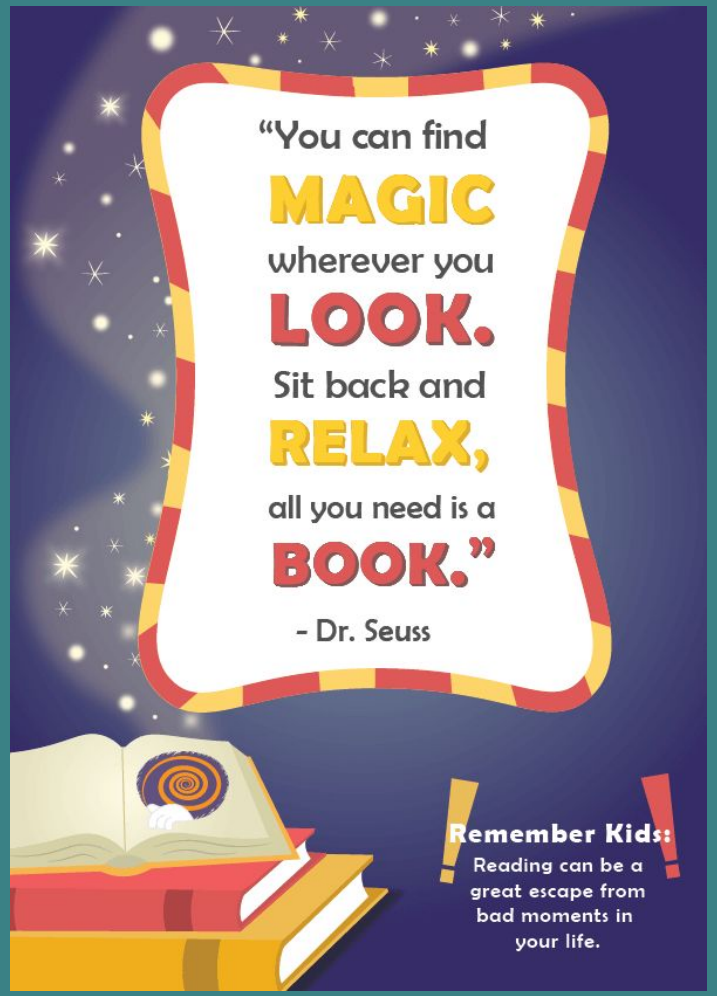
An Introduction to Phonics and Early Reading.

Welcome!

- What is phonics?
- The alphabetic code
- Blending
- Reading and books
- Reading at home
- Spelling
- Concerns about progress
- Questions and next steps



We love reading!

- Reading for pleasure
- Finding out information
- Reading the world around them
- Understanding forms and official documents
- Accessing learning

What is Phonics?

Phonics is the link between the words we read/say and the letters that represent each sound.

Phonics Terminology

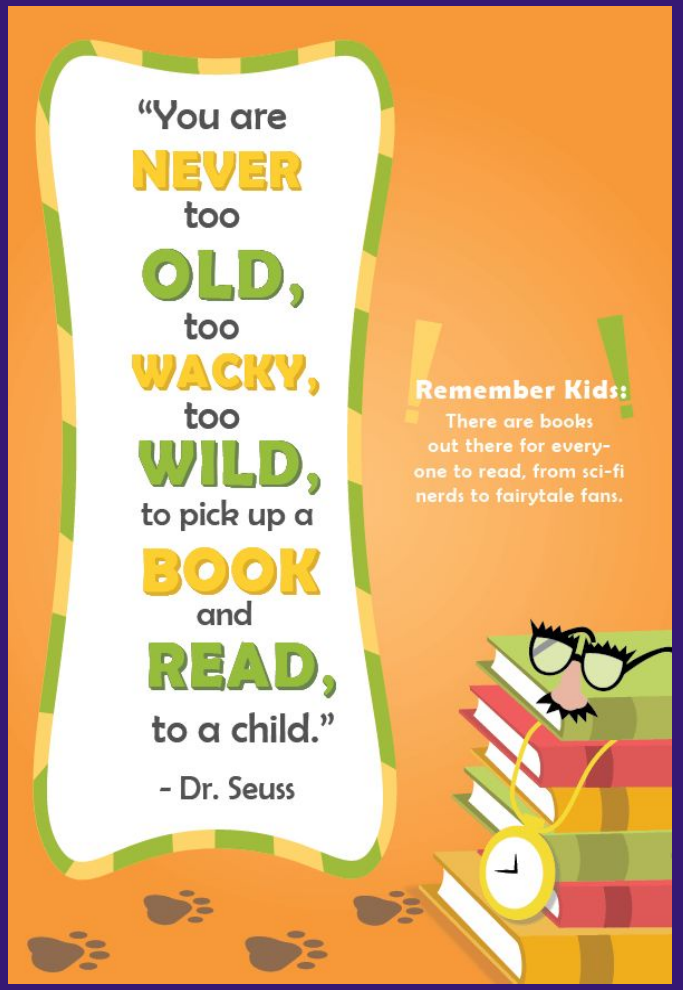
Phoneme - A single spoken sound, e.g. /c/

Grapheme - A grapheme is a letter or a sequence of letters that represent a phoneme/sound.

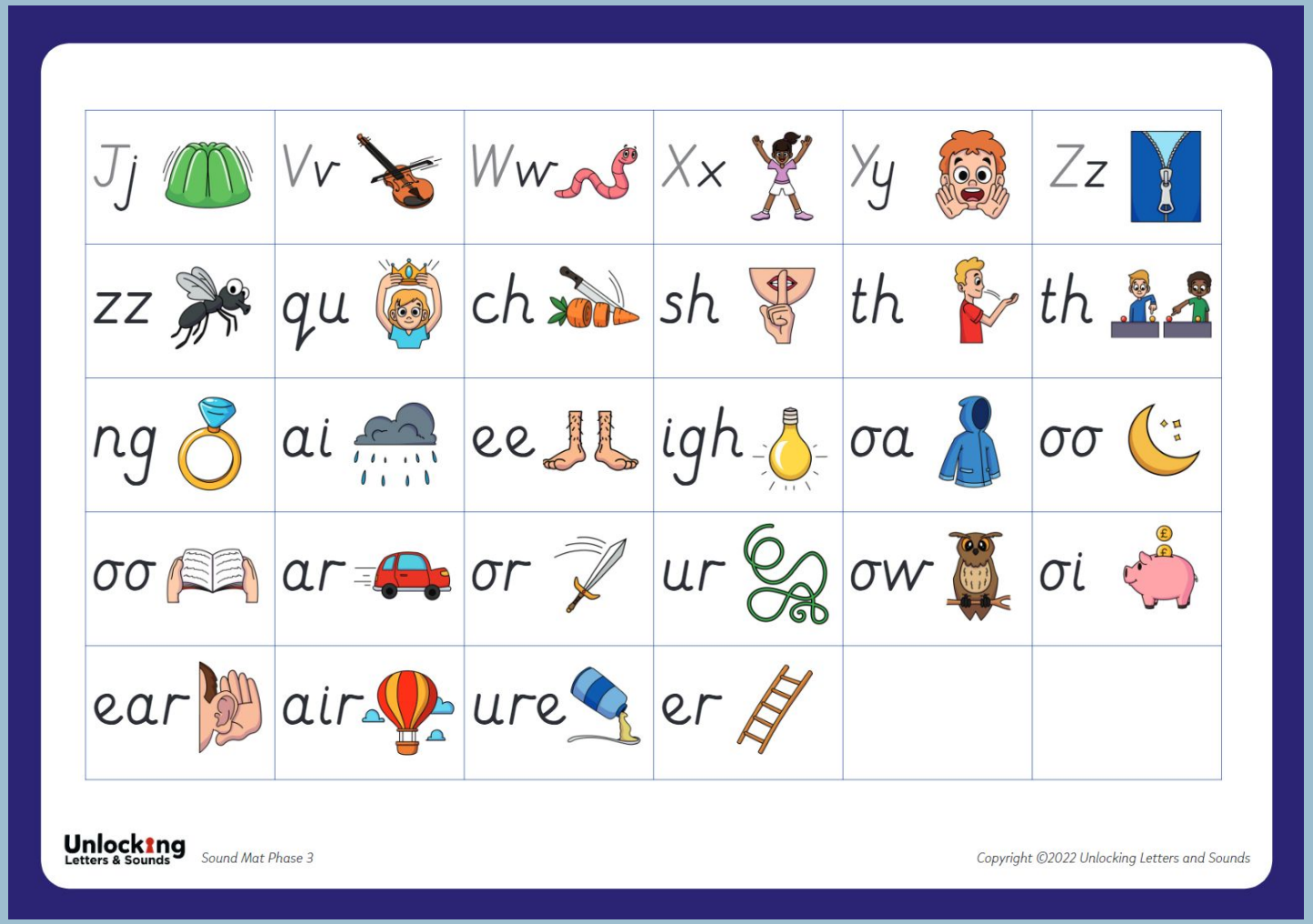
Phoneme/Grapheme Correspondence - match a phoneme (sound) to a grapheme (written representation)

Segment - Segmenting a word is to break the word down into its component phonemes, e.g. hat = h-a-t.

Blend - Blending letter sounds (phonemes) together enables children to decode and read words. For example, h-a-t = hat.



Correct Pronunciation



- Phase 2 Actions
- Phase 3 Actions

The Alphabetic Code

44 phonemes

Simple Code

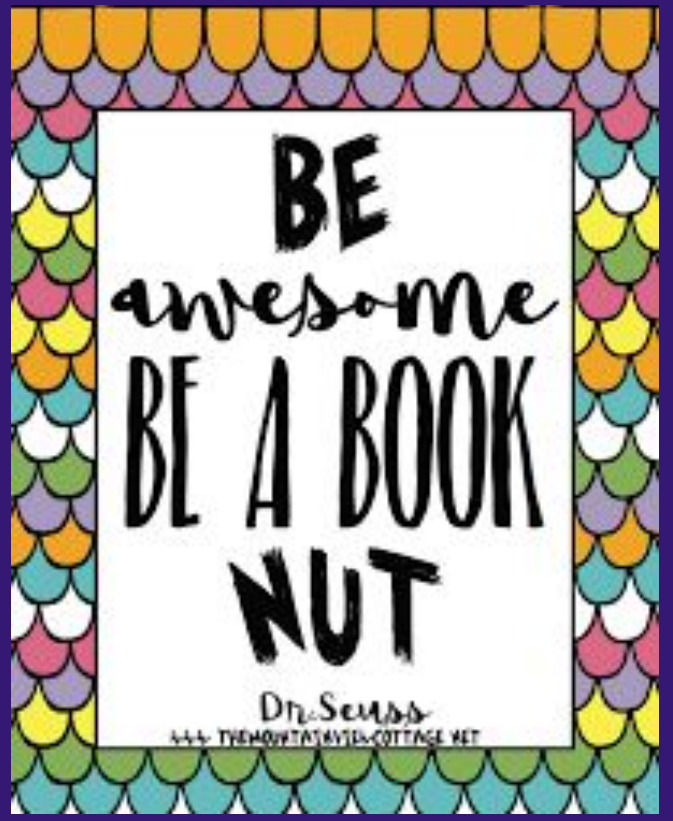
Complex Code

Blending

- Pushing the phonemes together to make a word.



- Sun Sun/ny Sun/flow/er

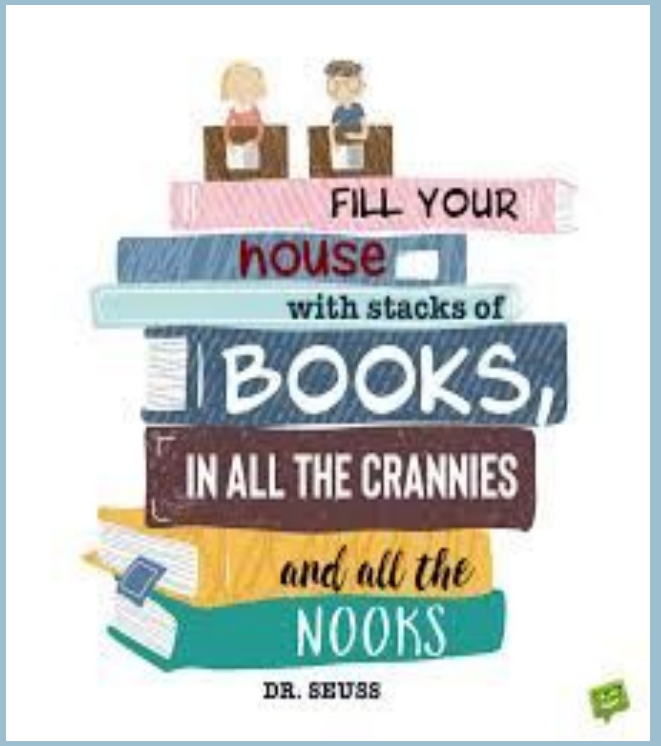


Common Exception Words

the	to	into
no	I	go

Unlocking Letters & Sounds CEW Sound Mat Phase 2

Copyright ©2022 Unlocking Letters and Sounds



Reading and Books at St John's

Children will be given books precisely matched to their phonic attainment - this will be different for every child.

The time spent reading with your child should be a celebration of your child's reading - a chance to showcase their phonic expertise.

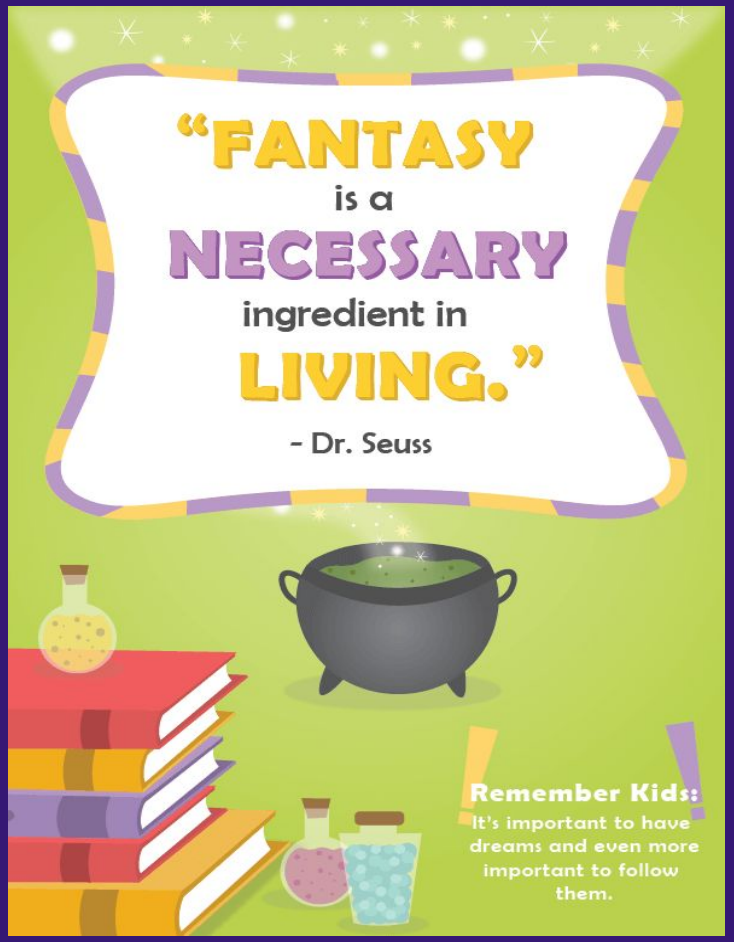


Why read each book 3 times?

1) Decoding and Vocabulary

1) Prosody (intonation, volume, pitch, rhythm).

1) Comprehension *(Questions, predictions, characters feeling etc.).*



Once Phonics are Secure

Once children are secure in **all their phonic sounds**, can read fluently and are able to decode words independently, they will move onto colour banded books.



Once Phonics is Secure

Our colour banded books are matched to the children's reading age.

Their reading age is assessed through an online tool, comprehension activities and reading with a teacher. We assesses the children's reading and their understanding of the text (comprehension). This then allows us to match a book to their reading age.

Like the phonics readers, coloured banded books should be able to be read fluently and the emphasis broadens to encompass more comprehension and vocabulary understanding.

Children's reading ages are reviewed throughout the year and their home reading books adjusted accordingly.

Unlocking Letters & Sounds

Reading Stars Phonics



Reading at home
Your child reading to you.

- 5 – 10 minutes daily
- Choose a time that works for you, get comfortable and free from distractions.
- Make it part of your routine.
- Be positive and celebrate successes
- Be patient and let them try and work it out…if they need help…then work it out together.

Remember your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader.

Reading at home
You reading to your child

Your child will also bring home a ‘Reading for Pleasure’ book, which will be chosen each week by them from our school library or classroom book corner.

This book is for **you to read to your child** and for you and your child to enjoy together.

By sharing this book together, you can further support your child by talking about the story, characters, exploring vocabulary and asking questions you will be **supporting their understanding, developing their comprehension skills and widening their vocabulary.**

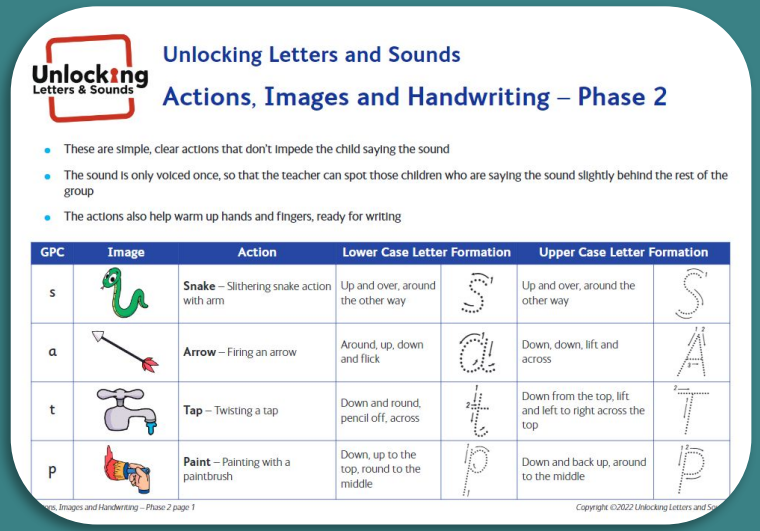
- Spending quality time together.
- Modelling how to read a book – tracking left to right, turning pages, identify title & illustrator.
- Asking questions about what has happened and characters’ feelings.
- Explaining vocabulary
- Predicting what will happen next. How will the story end?
- Making connections - personal links.
- Share your love of reading!

Spelling

- Segmenting words



- Daily writing as part of phonics lessons



Unlocking Letters and Sounds

Actions, Images and Handwriting – Phase 2

- These are simple, clear actions that don't impede the child saying the sound
- The sound is only voiced once, so that the teacher can spot those children who are saying the sound slightly behind the rest of the group
- The actions also help warm up hands and fingers, ready for writing

GPC	Image	Action	Lower Case Letter Formation		Upper Case Letter Formation	
s		**Snake** – Slithering snake action with arm	Up and over, around the other way		Up and over, around the other way	
a		**Arrow** – Firing an arrow	Around, up, down and flick		Down, down, lift and across	
t		**Tap** – Twisting a tap	Down and round, pencil off, across		Down from the top, lift and left to right across the top	
p		**Paint** – Painting with a paintbrush	Down, up to the top, round to the middle		Down and back up, around to the middle	

Copyright ©2022 Unlocking Letters and Sou

Concerns about progress

- All children are different
- Discuss any concerns with teachers
- Teachers will assess your child regularly
- Interventions to support child in the specific skill they are struggling with
- Adaptations for children with SEND



Thank you for coming.

Any questions?

