Welcome Everyone!

Phonics and Reading Meeting

Welcome!

01 Reading at St John's

02 What is phonics?

03 Sparx

04 Reading at home

05 Supporting reluctant readers and reading with fluent readers.

06 Questions

What reading looks like at St John's

- Guided reading
- Reading buddies
- Individual reads
- Whole class story time
- Library visits

Phonics

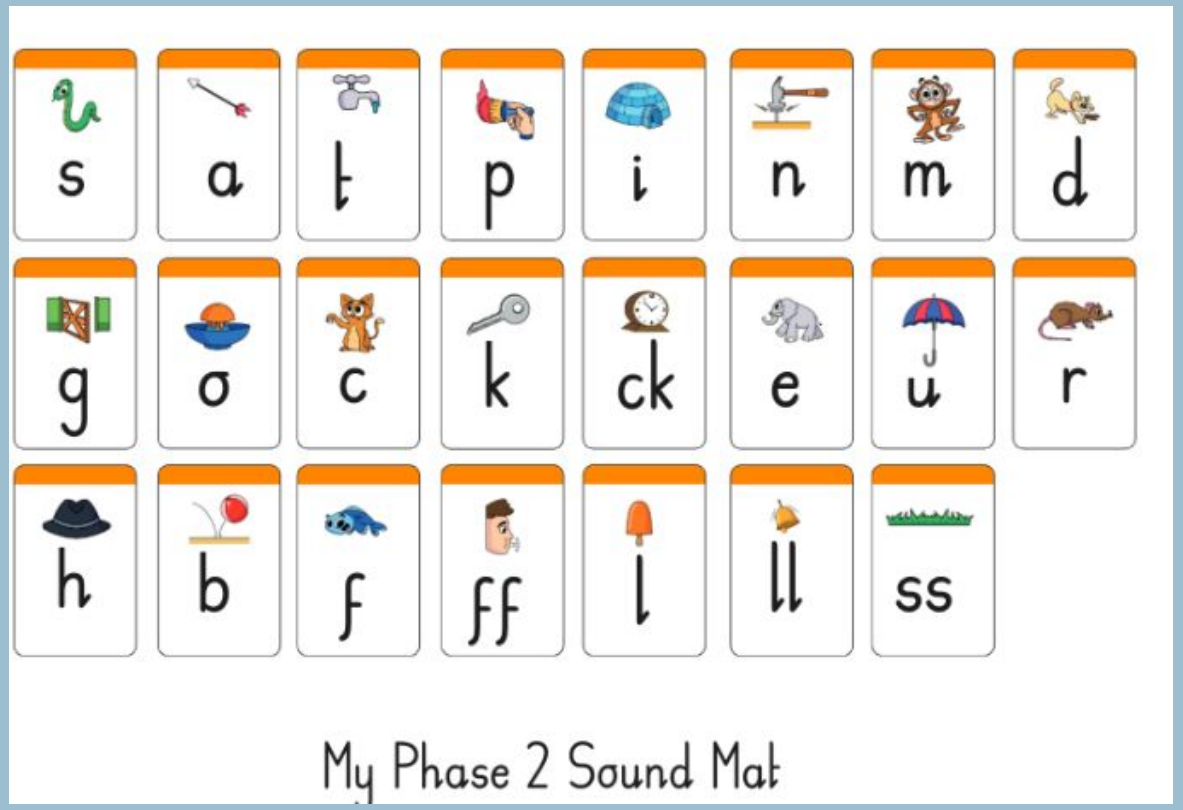
Unlocking Scheme
Following the Unlocking Letters and Sounds scheme

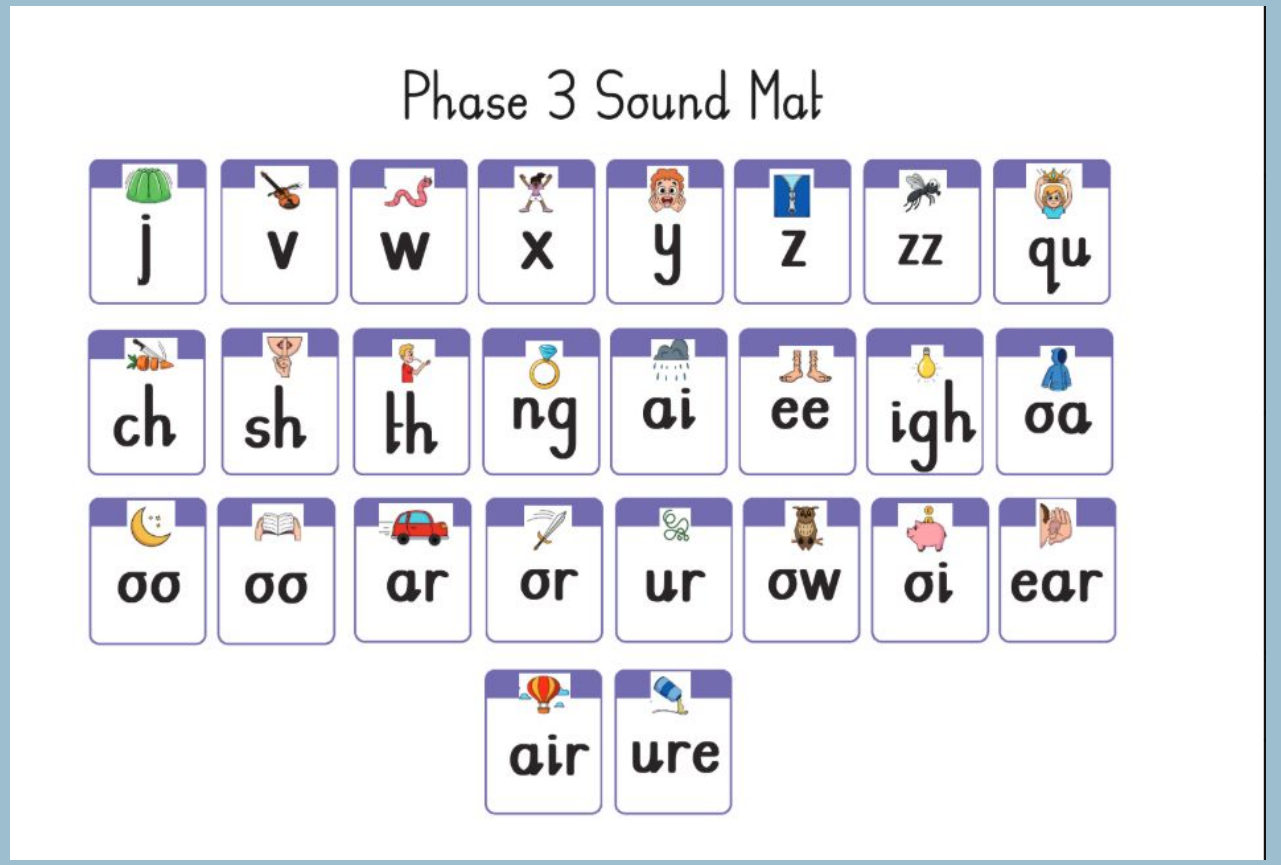
Progressive Pathway
Structured programme progressing from Reception through Year 2

Daily Teaching
Daily interactive whole class phonic lessons

Weekly Rhythm
4 new sounds taught per week plus a dedicated revision session

Multi-Sensory Learning
Each sound is paired with a unique physical action


s
a
t
p
i
n
m
d
g
o
c
k
ck
e
u
r
h
b
f
ff
l
ll
ss
My Phase 2 Sound Mat


Phase 3 Sound Mat
j
v
w
x
y
z
zz
qu
ch
sh
th
ng
ai
ee
igh
oa
oo
oo
ar
or
ur
ow
oi
ear
air
ure

Phonics

Unlocking Letters & Sounds

Children will be learning to segment and blend taught sounds.



map

m a p

Segmenting & Blending
m - a - p → map



pan

p a n

Segmenting & Blending
p - a - n → pan



jam

j a m

Segmenting & Blending
j - a - m → jam

How it works:
Children first segment words into individual phoneme sounds, then blend the sounds back together to read the word confidently.

Common Exception Words

Phase 2 & 3 Words

me	we	be	he
she	was	you	they
all	are	my	her

Phase 4 & 5 Words

said	have	like
so	do	some
come	were	there
little	one	when
out	what	

Lets see what phonics looks like in Reception.

STEP 01



Alphabet Song

We start each session singing the alphabet song. It's important that the children know the letter names too.

STEP 02



Recap Sounds

We recap the sounds and common exception words.

STEP 03



Segment & Blend

We segment and blend the words.

STEP 04



Write Words

We write the words.

Phonics and Reading Books

Phonics Books

- Children will be given books when they can blend – this will be different for every child.
- Books precisely match children's phonics attainment.
- Phase books 2, 3, 4, 5 and mastery.

Further Reading

- Colour banded books.
- Love of reading books / library books.
- Sparx Books



Sparx Reader

An online reading app our school uses to help your child build a daily reading habit and boost their vocabulary and comprehension.

How It Works for Your Child

STEP 01

Books Tailored to Them

Sparx Reader helps pupils to select a physical book that is closely matched to their individual reading level, ensuring they are appropriately challenged while still feeling confident and successful.

STEP 02

Checking Understanding

The children answer questions related to the book on a laptop. The questions are generated by Sparx.

STEP 03

Progress & Rewards

Children progress through the levels as they read and achieve stickers to celebrate their success.



Why is reading so important?

Writing Connection

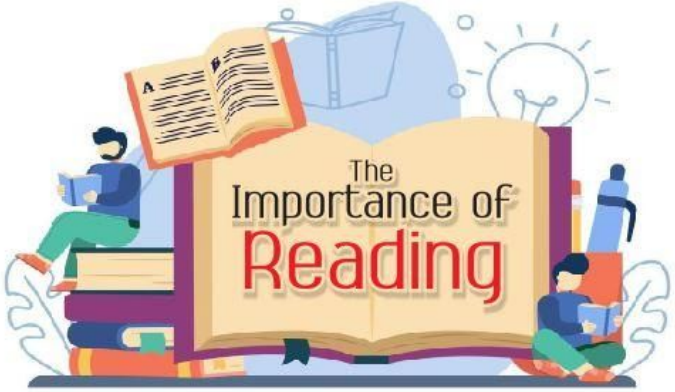
Your child's ability to read directly impacts their ability to write.

Imagination & Confidence

Successful readers tend to be more imaginative and confident.

Vocabulary & Comprehension

More able readers are better speakers. The wider and richer your child's vocabulary and knowledge about the world around them, the better comprehension they will have.



Small Daily Habits, Huge Results

900 MINS

Extra reading practice achieved per school year with just 5 minutes a day!

1.4 Million Words

More words heard before age 5 when read to daily

Stress-Free Pace

Stop while your child is still having fun

Reading at Home

Practical Guidance for Parents

RECOMMENDED READS



Daily Habits

5 – 10 Minutes

Keep daily sessions short, focused, and enjoyable for your child.

Choose the Right Time

Find a routine time that fits naturally into your day.

Be Positive & Celebrate

Praise effort and celebrate small wins to build confidence.

Be Patient

Give them time to process, try, and work words out independently.

Key Techniques

01

Point to Graphemes

Encourage your child to point directly to individual letter sounds as they read.

02

Sound Out & Blend

Prompt them to say each sound clearly and blend them together seamlessly.

03

Common Exception Words

Practice recognising tricky common exception words instantly by sight.

CREATING HABITS AT HOME

Build a Cosy Reading Sanctuary

01

Designate a Reading Nook

Cushions, fairy lights, and accessible books create inviting comfort.

02

The "Extra 10 Minutes" Hack

Allow bedtime to extend 10 minutes provided it's spent reading.

03

Side-by-Side Reading

Sit together comfortably so both parent and child view the words and pictures.



Take-Home Games for Families

GAME 01



Caught You Slipping!

Intentionally misread story words for active listening corrections.

- Builds attentiveness
- Turns reading into a fun challenge
- Empowers children to catch errors

GAME 02



Book Scavenger Hunt

Search pages for name letters, rhymes, or colours.

- Reinforces letter recognition
- Sharpens visual scanning
- Works with any picture book

GAME 03



3-Item Story Bag

Draw random objects to build custom tales.

- Sparks creative narrative skills
- Expands spoken vocabulary
- Fun interactive storytelling

The "Caught You Slipping!" Game

How to Play

- **Parent Reads Aloud:** Read a familiar favorite book to your child.
- **Insert Silly Mistakes:** Intentionally swap key words (e.g., "Goldilocks ate hot *pizza*").
- **Child Corrects You:** The child shouts "Slipping!" and points out the error.

Why Parents Love It

Shifts Power Dynamic: Puts the child in the expert role, making them feel in control.

Zero Reading Anxiety: Your child actively follows text without performance pressure.

Sharpens Focus: Forces deep audio-visual tracking during storytime.

Why Do Children Resist Reading?



Cognitive Fatigue

Decoding letters consumes immense mental energy after a full school day.

- High mental load from daily tasks
- Brain stamina depleted by evening



Fear of Failure

Performance pressure makes children fear mispronouncing words aloud.

- Anxiety over making mistakes
- Self-consciousness during read-alouds



Screen Competition

Static print feels slow compared to fast-paced tablet entertainment.

- High-dopamine digital stimulus
- Print requires active patience

Understanding the underlying triggers helps us replace frustration with empathy.

Rethinking "What Counts as Reading"

Comics Books

Visual context clues bridge comprehension and reduce text load.



Audiobooks & Read-Alouds

Expands story vocabulary far beyond current decoding level.



Recipe Cards & Game Manuals

Functional reading gives immediate real-world purpose.



Building Reading Habits at Home

HABIT 01

Accessible Book Baskets

Keep books within easy reach throughout the home in accessible book baskets.



HABIT 02

Model Daily Reading

Let children observe adults enjoying books daily.



HABIT 03

Weekly Library Visits

Encourage personal book selection and ownership.



Reading at home with fluent readers

Ask Questions
Ask questions about what has happened and characters' feelings.

Discuss Vocabulary
Explore meaning, context, and new words encountered together.

Discuss Author's Choice
Talk about word selection, tone, and storytelling techniques.

Predict What Will Happen Next
Encourage active thinking about plot developments.

Make Book Connections
Relate current stories to other books previously read.

Model Your Love of Reading!
Show genuine enthusiasm and joy when sharing stories together.

Unlocking Letters & Sounds

Reading Stars Phonics



A few points to take home

Choose the Best Time
Find a regular slot that fits your routine e.g. bedtime, before dinner, or in the morning.

Sit Side by Side
Get comfortable so you can easily view and read the book together.

Provide Variety
Explore different formats like comics, newspapers, magazines, and poems.

Family Reading Time
Set aside dedicated time where the whole family reads together.

Share Favourite Books
Model enthusiasm by sharing stories and books you personally love.



Do you have any questions?

Thank you for taking the time to support your child's reading journey.