

March 2023- Here are the main points that we covered in the phonics meeting. Please see your child's class teacher if you have any questions.



EYFS and Year 1 Phonics and early reading meeting

Year 1 Phonics screening check

What is phonics?

What is phonics video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42jb6PopZCI>

Five basic skills:

Learn letter sounds and groups of letters that make different sounds,

Learn to write letter shapes,

Learn to blend sounds together for reading,

Learn to identify sounds in words for writing,

Learn to read and spell tricky words.



What is phonics?

Phonics helps children learn to read and write by teaching them the letter sounds (**known as phonemes**), rather than letter names. For example, the sound that 'c' makes, not the alphabetic name.

There are 42 sounds in the English language that can be heard in words. These include the 26 sounds in the alphabet but also some more complex sounds that are made up of 2 or even 3 letters. E.G. 'sh' in the word 'shark' or 'oo' in the word 'moon' or 'igh' in the word 'night'.

Each phoneme (sound) can be represented by 1 or more letters. These are called **graphemes**. Ai, ay, a-e are all graphemes of the sound 'ai' in it's written form.



What does phonics look like at St Francis?

We use 'Song of Sounds' as our synthetic phonics scheme. This runs from EYFS through Key Stage 1 and as booster groups in KS2. It is a dynamic, hands on teaching program with a song at the heart. The children love how much fun it is! Each week has 4 carpet sessions and a longer consolidation session at the end of the week.

The children work through the single letter sounds and then move onto **digraphs** (two letters that make one sound e.g. ra in rain) and **trigraphs** (3 letters that make 1 sound igh in night).



Digraph

Two letters that make
one sound

ar or sh ee

Trigraph

Three letters that make
one sound

air igh ear ure

Pronouncing the sounds

The 'pure' sound is the actual sound you make when you say a word e.g. the first sound of 'fish' is 'fff' not 'fuh'.



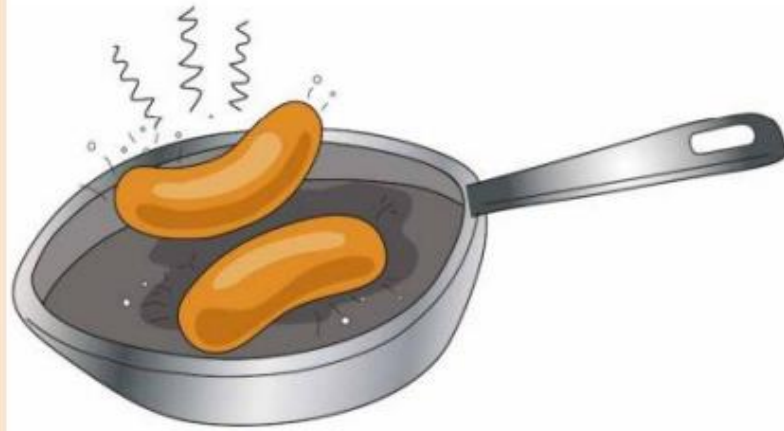
Pronouncing the sounds

The first sound of 'hat' is 'h' not 'huh'.



Pronouncing the sounds

The first
sound of
'sausage' is
'sss' not 'suh'.



S



Pronouncing the sounds

The first sound of 'mice' is 'mmm' not 'muh'.



m



Pronouncing the sounds

Guide on how to pronounce pure sounds:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc>

Links to song of sounds videos:

Stage 1 (Reception)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UdWOstqf3hU>

Stage 2 (Year 1)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=by8fWpqUkju>

Stage 3 (Year 2)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4jzH9hu8vl>



Stage 1 phoneme finder

See your child's class teacher if you do not have a copy of this to use at home- children love to practise the sounds and tricky words using this sheet. It should also aid your child's writing too!



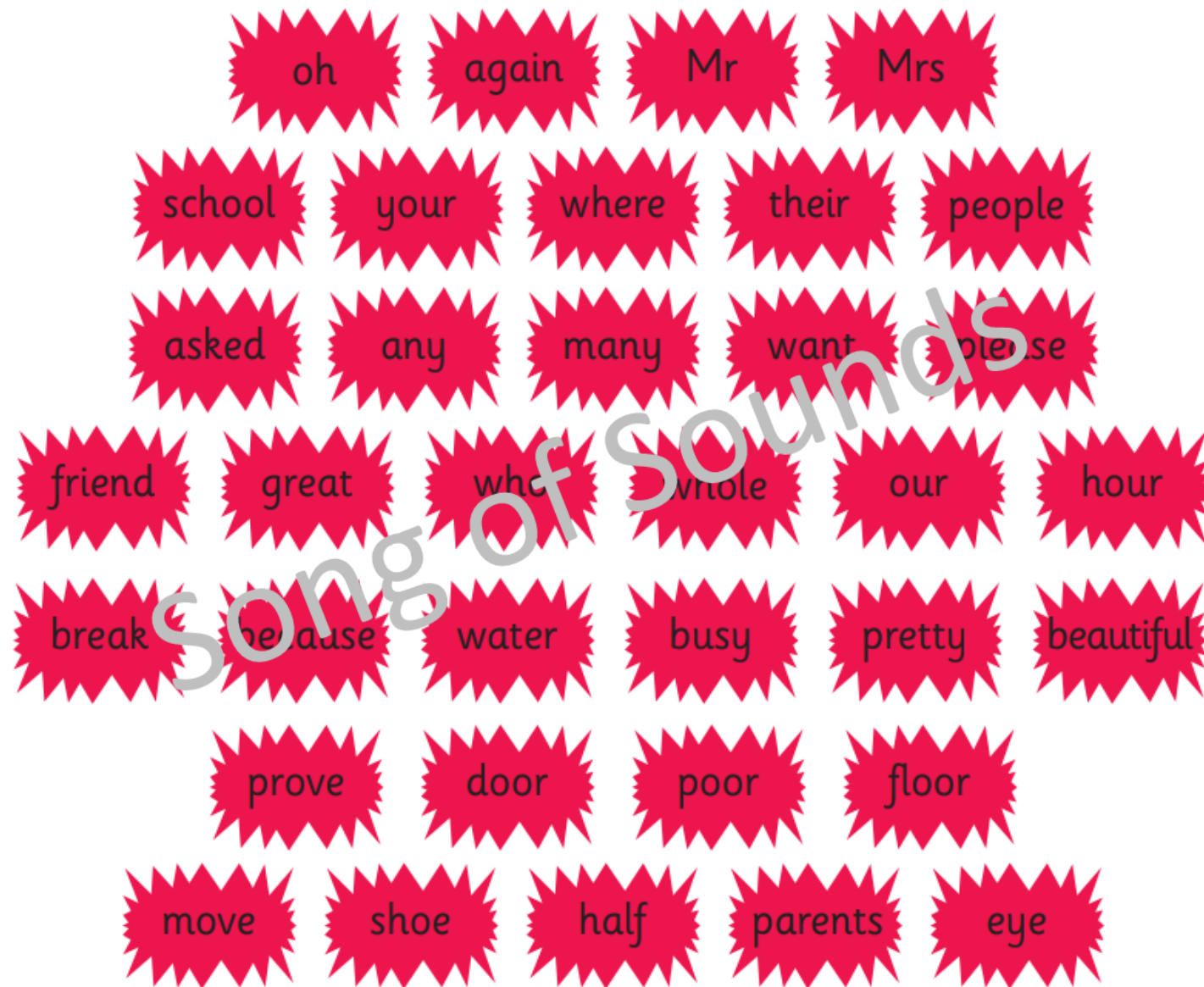
Stage 1 Tricky words

and I the no go so into
to do he she we be me
put push pull full my by was
you they of all are have a
some one love here were there
her out one once when what
his said ask little like house

Stage 2 phoneme
finder



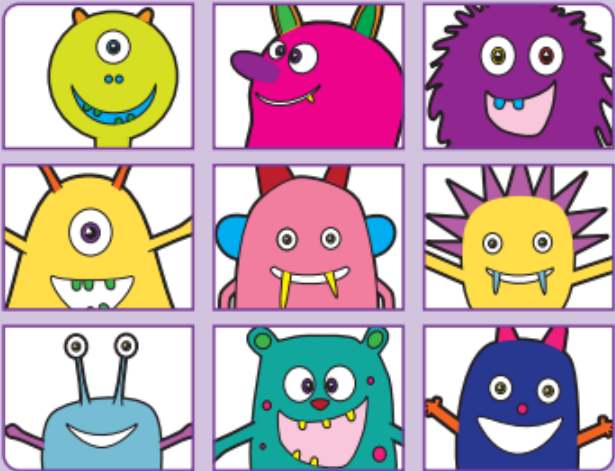
Stage 2 Tricky words



Key stage 1

Phonics screening check

Pupils' materials



The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

It is taken individually by all children in Year 1 the week beginning 12th June 2023, and any year 2 children who did not pass the previous year.

It is designed to give teachers and parents information on how your child is progressing in phonics.

It will help identify whether your child needs additional support.

There are two sections in this 40-word check and it assesses phonics skills and knowledge learned through Reception and Year 1.

Your child will work 1:1 with a teacher for approximately 10 minutes. Although, all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace.

It checks that your child can:

- Sound out and blend graphemes in order to read simple words. Read phonetically decodable one-syllable and two syllable words e.g. cat, sand, windmill. Read a selection of nonsense words which are referred to as pseudo words.

Section 1

thud

hang

coin

shell

Section 2

globe

teams

bowl

chase

Section 2

visit

fabric

trapeze

concrete

What are nonsense words?

These are words which are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning e.g. briip, snorb.

Pseudo words are included in the check to specifically assess whether your child can decode a word using phonics skills and not their memory.

The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of a monster and they will be asked to tell their teacher what sort of monster it is by reading the word.

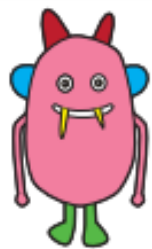
There are no clues, your child just has to decode it.

We are already exposing the children to nonsense words and they find them amusing, and enjoy reading them!



Section 1

besh



quab



barp



chell



Section 2

vair



cloat



tirt



whike



Section 2

plunt



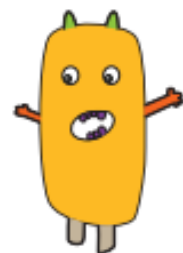
flards



spran



splew



What happens with the assessment information?

The check is not intended to be about passing or failing, but checking the appropriate progress is being made.

If children do not reach the required standard, then we will organise additional support to help your child to catch up. Your child will re-sit the check in the following summer term.

The threshold mark set by the government has previously been 32 correct answers out of 40.



How you can support your child's reading journey at home.

Read to / with your child every day!

We have reduced homework in KS1 because we feel that reading is the most valuable activity you could be doing with your child!

7 BENEFITS OF DAILY READING FOR CHILDREN

- READING TO YOUR CHILD DAILY WILL HELP THEM DEVELOP BETTER VOCABULARY AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS.
- READING TO CHILDREN STIMULATES THEIR CREATIVITY AND IMAGINATION
- READING TO CHILDREN HELPS FOSTER A LIFELONG LOVE OF READING
- READING STORIES TO CHILDREN IS A GREAT WAY TO TEACH LESSONS AND IDEAS.
- READING TIME IS A WONDERFUL TIME TO BOND WITH YOUR CHILD.
- READING TO CHILDREN HELPS THEM UNDERSTAND THE WORLD AROUND THEM.
- READING STORIES TO YOUR CHILD CAN HELP THEM LEARN HOW TO DEAL WITH THEIR FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS.

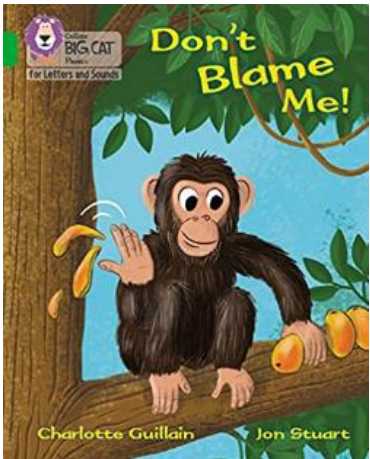


How you can help at home



Please read your child's book band with your child at least 5 times a week. You should record this in your child's yellow reading record book.

Children will move up through the book band levels based on the sounds and tricky words they know.



Practise phonics sounds- use flashcards / phoneme finder.

Sing the Song of Sounds song for the stage your child is learning.

Practise the tricky word bookmarks.

Practise **blending words** and spelling words using your phoneme finder.



Blue word list

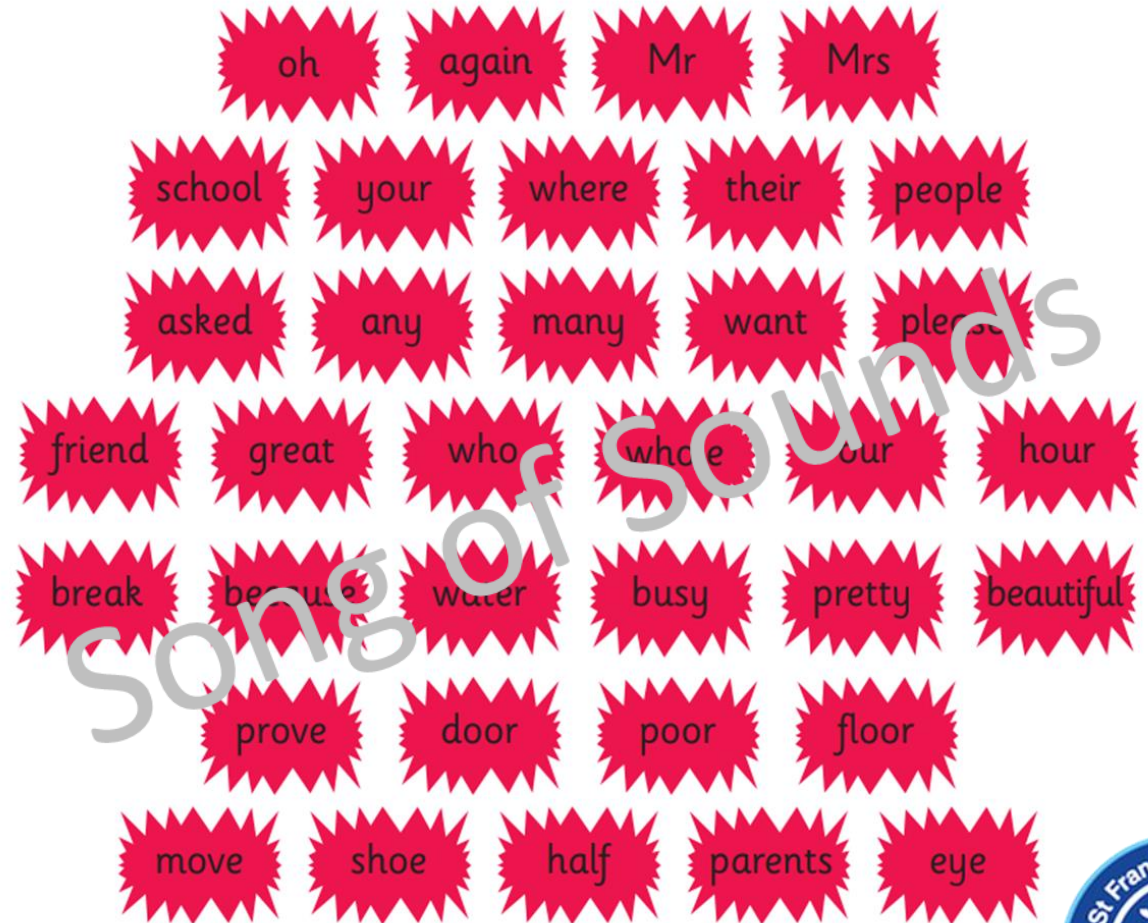
again
people
friend
your
our
oh

Tricky word bookmark number 7

All the tricky words on the bookmarks are taken from the Tricky word lists children need to know. Practice reading these as much as possible with your child.

Example tricky word bookmark

To move up a book band your child needs to know the tricky words that will be covered in that level, so they are able to read books with improved fluency and confidence.



Phonics can be fun!

I Spy the Sound

‘I Spy the Sound’ is a fun way to build phonics skills and phonemic awareness. In this variation of the classic game, ‘I Spy’, ask your child to spy words that begin with a certain sound, rather than a letter. For example, “I spy with my little eye, something beginning with mmm.”



Phonics can be fun!

- Fishing for sounds in the bath.
- Sound hunts in the house.
- Write the graphemes on post its and put them up the stairs to jump on or on the fridge or splat the sounds with a fly swatter/water gun.



Phonics can be fun!



Letter Races

This game requires a magnetic board, magnetic letters, and a lot of space! Set up the magnetic board on one side of the room, and place the magnetic letters in a basket or bowl on the other side. Call out a sound, or a word starting or ending in a particular sound. Then ask your child (with a ready, set, go!) to pick out the correct magnetic letters and run over as fast as they can to stick it on the board.



Phonics can be fun!

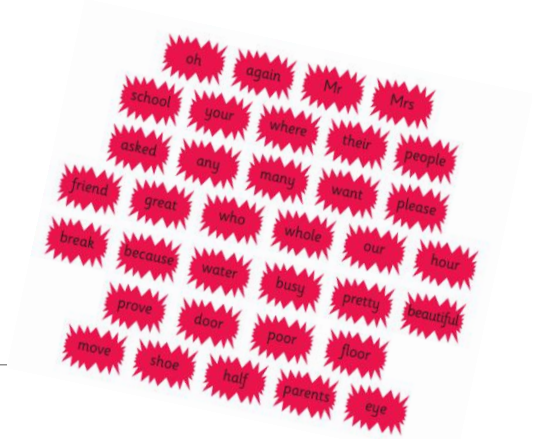


Phoneme or Tricky word Detectives

At bedtime, ask your child to pick a story from their bookshelf and be a letter detective, finding as many examples of a specific letter shape as they can, for example 's'. You could also play this game hunting for tricky words, for example 'they'.



Phonics can be fun!



Guess the Tricky Word

Challenge your child to guess which tricky word you're thinking of, as you give them clues, for example, 'I begin with w and I have a tricky sound in the middle.'

Wordsearches

Make a wordsearch for your child containing all the tricky words they've been learning. Then draw a grid for them to make their own wordsearch for you to solve.

Anagrams

To practise the tricky words your child's been learning, why not create some tricky-word anagrams for them to unscramble, for example, you could write 'etyh' and your child has to work out that it says 'they'.



Phonics can be fun!

Writing with your phoneme finder

- Write as many 'ai' graphemes (sounds) as you can.
- Can you write words with the 'ay' sound?
- Point to graphemes to spell a word.
- Can you write all the digraphs? Trigraphs?
- How many graphemes start with the letter a?
- Act out sounds. (If you don't know the actions get your child to test you!)



Useful websites- free phonics games

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com>

<https://letters-and-sounds.com/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds>

Remember we are here to help you.

If you have any questions please see your class teacher.

