

# Phonics at St Agnes CE Primary School



At St Agnes CE Primary School, we provide an engaging and inspiring curriculum that promotes our core value of 'love to learn'. Based upon the needs of our children, families and the community, our curriculum aims to equip pupils in acquiring the cultural capital needed to flourish in education and beyond. We achieve this through a knowledge based and skills led approach, rich in language and vocabulary, supported through enriching experiences which allows all of our children to 'learn to do well'. Pupils will leave St Agnes well prepared for the next stage of their education – enabling them to grow into active, responsible members of society 'living well together', in modern Britain.

## Why we teach Phonics

We teach phonics to ensure that children are equipped with the key skills to read and write words, and so that eventually they are able to be fluent readers and apply their phonic skills in their writing.

“Cracking the code” and learning to read is an essential skill for success in school and later in life.

Government research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way, starting with the easiest sounds and progressing through to the most complex, it is the most effective way of teaching young children to read.

## How we teach Phonics



At St Agnes C of E school, we teach phonics using the Government validated scheme, Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised.

It is a systematic and synthetic approach to phonics which ensures children build on their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code, mastering phonics to read and spell as they move through school.

Across the school there is consistency in the language we use, mantras, procedures, routines, resources and in expectations of progress.

### Foundations for phonics in Nursery

We provide a balance of child-led and adult-led experiences for all children that meet the curriculum expectations for 'Communication and Language' and 'Literacy'. These include:

- sharing high-quality stories and poems
- learning a range of nursery rhymes and action rhymes
- activities that develop focused listening and attention, including oral blending
- attention to high-quality language
- We ensure Nursery children are well prepared to begin learning grapheme-phoneme correspondences (GPCs) and blending in Reception.

### Daily phonics lessons in Reception and Year 1

- In Reception, we build from 10-minute lessons, with additional daily oral blending games, to the full-length 30-minute lessons, as quickly as possible.
- In Y1 we teach phonics for 30 minutes a day from the start.
- Each Friday, we review the week's teaching to help children become fluent readers.

### Daily Keep-up lessons

- Any child in YR or Y1 who needs additional practice has daily Keep-Up lessons.
- Any child in Y2 or Y3 who needs further support or has not passed the Phonics screening check has daily phonics lessons using the Keep-Up resources.
- If any child in Y3 to Y6 has gaps in their phonic knowledge when reading or writing, we plan 10-minute phonics 'Catch-Up' lessons.



### Buried Treasure is a favourite game in Nursery

#### Links:

These three videos show how to pronounce the sounds. Notice how the children don't add an 'uh' sound at the end, so they say: 't' not 'tuh'.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZtjFlvA fs>

How to say Phase 2 YR Au1 sounds.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qDu3JAjf-U0>

How to say Phase 2 YR Au2 sounds.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvOuc7cWXxc>

How to say Phase 3 YR Sp1 sounds.

**“The more that you. read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.” — Dr. Seuss**

## What Phonics looks like at St Agnes

Phonics is taught by well trained, skilled and knowledgeable staff and most children use their phonic knowledge to become fluent readers and their spelling becomes increasingly accurate.

When walking through our school, the teaching of phonics and its importance is evident. Print rich classrooms, display walls, high quality activities in and outdoors, all show that at St. Agnes the importance of good, systematic phonics teaching and learning is paramount.

Parents are keen to be involved in helping their child to learn the letters and sounds and find our phonics workshops useful for showing them how to use Little Wandle to help their child at home.

#### Assessment

Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised assessment tracker is used to monitor progress and to identify any child needing additional support as soon as they need it.

#### Assessment for learning is used:

- daily within class to identify children needing Keep-Up support
- weekly in the Review lesson to assess gaps, address these immediately and secure fluency of GPCs, words and spellings.

#### Summative assessment is used:

- every six weeks to assess progress, to identify gaps in learning that need to be addressed, to identify any children needing additional support and to plan the Keep-Up support that they need.
- by SLT and is scrutinised to narrow attainment gaps between different groups of children and to ensure any additional support for teachers can be put into place.
- The Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised placement assessment is used with any child new to the school to quickly identify any gaps in their phonic knowledge and plan provide appropriate extra teaching.

#### Statutory assessment

Children in Year 1 sit the Phonics screening check in June. Any child who does not achieve the required result re-sits it in Year 2. The results of the Phonics screening check have improved in recent years and the result in 2019 was 82%. - broadly in line with national attainment.

#### Ongoing assessment for catch-up

- Children in Year 2 to 6 are assessed through:
- their teacher's ongoing formative assessment
  - the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds placement assessment
  - the appropriate half-termly assessments.

**LOVE TO LEARN • LEARN TO DO WELL  
• LIVE WELL TOGETHER**