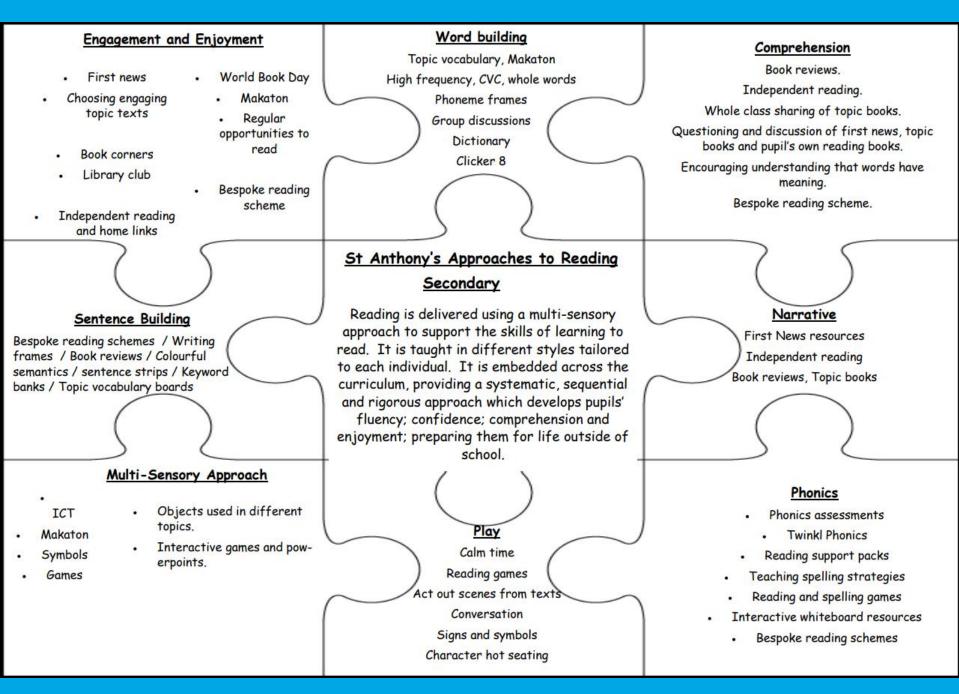


Reading at St Anthony's School: Information for Parents and Carers.



Why Phonics at St Anthony's?

The Reading Framework - Department for Education and Skills 2023 - says:

<u>'Consensus is growing among academics and teachers that</u> <u>the best reading instruction for pupils with SEND is</u> <u>Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP), taught by direct</u> <u>instruction.'</u>

'Phonics, rather than a whole-word approach, provides pupils with moderate to severe and complex needs the best opportunity to gain literacy and beyond'.

'Under the Equality Act 2010, schools are expected to enable access to appropriate phonics instruction for pupils who have complex needs.' At St Anthony's we work on core skills of decoding and encoding in Phonics Lessons to **improve speed and accuracy** of reading and spelling.



This means Pupils find the act of reading and spelling a little easier and feel more independent.

Consequently, pupils can focus their minds on understanding what they are reading and expressing themselves more clearly in writing.

Pupils engage with their learning at a deeper level; both in English and across the curriculum. Decoding (Phonics) reading. Encoding (Phonics) spelling & writing. Learning spelling rules and patterns.

Grammar and punctuation.

Comprehension and Fluency

Accessing reading and writing in other subjects across the curriculum. First Newsreading and responding to current affairs to develop critical comprehension skills.

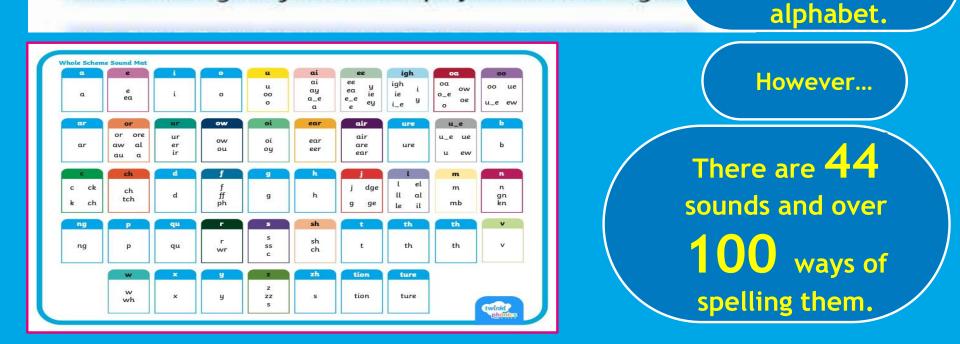
Studying a Shakespeare playunderstanding choice of language and performing in character.

Studying the novels of authors from a variety of cultures and backgrounds. Reading magazines Articles Adverts Leaflets Brochures Webpages

Reading and writing poetry

Did You Know...?

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz



This makes our language very complex to learn. It can be overwhelming if we rely purely on remembering whole words by sight.

Learning to use phonics provides a lifelong key to unlocking this complex code.

There are 26

letters in the

At St Anthony's we teach using Twinkl Phonics.



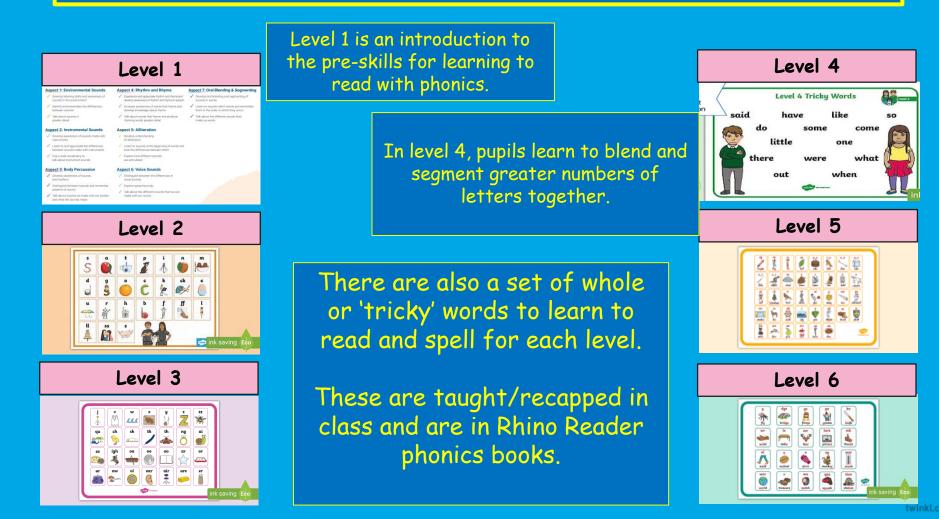
Twinkl Phonics is a government approved Systematic, Synthetic Phonics (SSP) programme.

Here is some of the terminology we use in phonics lessons and across the school.

Phoneme	the smallest unit of sound in words.		
Grapheme	the written representation of a sound.		
Blending	joining individual speech sounds together to read a word.	S-aw	
Segmenting	breaking down words into individual speech sounds to spell a word.	n igh t	
Digraph	two letters making one sound e.g. 'sh'.	S	
Trigraph	three letters making one sound e.g. 'igh'.	igh 🍕	
Split Digraph	two letters making one sound which are divided by a consonant e.g. the a_e sound in the word 'cake'.	a_e	
Tricky/Common Exception Words	words that are not fully decodable with sounds such as 'the' and 'was'.		
Sound buttons and lines	circles or lines that can be written underneath a sound to support reading.	shell	
GPC (Grapheme- Phoneme Correspondence)	being able to match a phoneme with the correct grapheme and vice versa	**	



All pupils have been assessed and given a Phonics level. There are a new set of sounds or skills for each level. There are no new sounds to learn in Level 1 or 4.

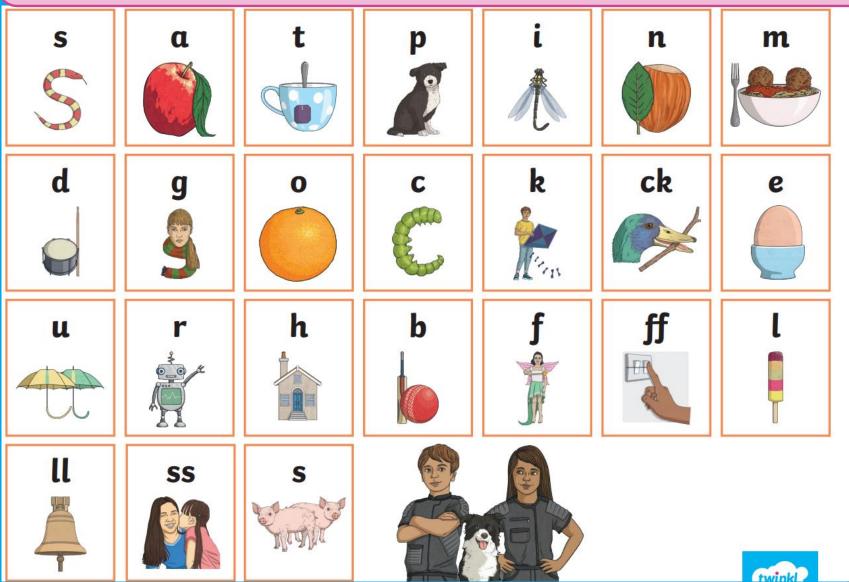


What is Synthetic Phonics?

• Synthetic phonics is a method of teaching reading and writing in which words are broken up into their smallest units of sound or 'phonemes'

s a t p i n	S	a
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We teach pupils to say the sounds as 'purely' as we can. For example, say "p" as a quick short sound not "puh". If we don't then it can make it difficult to correctly read or spell words. Eg: P - i - n Could be spelt as Puh-i-nuh Sounds are taught in a prescribed order that allows for the most words to be made from the start, such as 'sat,' 'tap' and 'pin'.



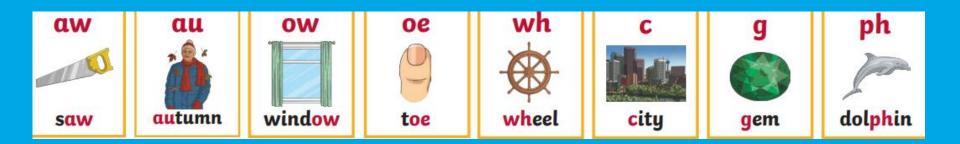
What Is Synthetic Phonics?

 People learn to associate a written letter or group of letters, known as 'graphemes', with each phoneme making a sound.

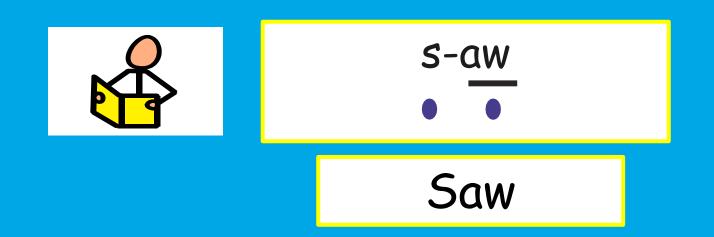


What Is Synthetic Phonics?

Sounds are then joined or blended together into words for reading.

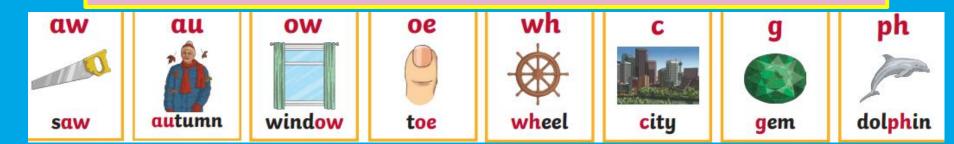


Blend sounds to read



What Is Synthetic Phonics?

Whole words are broken down or 'segmented' into their sounds for writing.

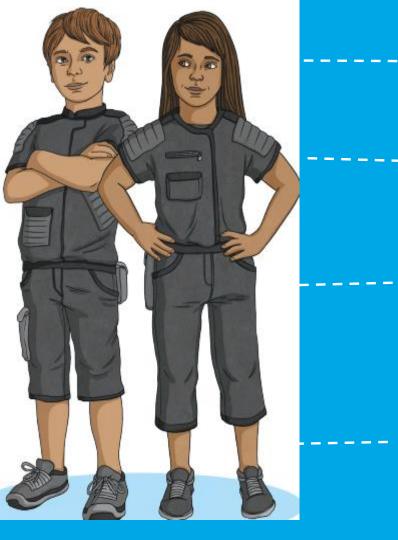


Segment sounds to spell





What Are the Benefits of Synthetic Phonics?



Children progress through the stages as they are ready.

Independence: pupils can attempt new words working from sounds alone.

The pace can suit the pupil's needs. Some children will work their way through the stages quickly, covering individual sounds they need to work on.

Once pupils read and spell more quickly, they can focus on the meaning of the text rather than just struggling to work out the words. This helps them fully **understand** what they are reading.





<u>Twinkl Phonics Level 2 Sounds and Actions –</u> <u>YouTube</u>

<u>Twinkl Phonics Level 3 Actions and Sounds -</u> <u>YouTube</u>

If you would like to learn more about the sounds in a level, click on the link to hear the sounds. *Please note we only teach the sounds, not actions, at St Anthony's*

Twinkl Phonics Level 5 GPCs: Pure Sounds, Actions and Mnemonics - YouTube



Twinkl Phonics Level 6 GPCs: Pure Sounds and Mnemonics - YouTube





At St Anthony's we have a range of Phonics based decoding texts. The readers linked to Twinkl Phonics are called 'Rhino Readers'. The following pages will support reading these with your child. <u>The strategies described can also be</u> <u>used with all other texts, not just Rhino Readers.</u>

Rhino Readers are purposely limited in content as are purely to practise sounds that pupils have learnt in Phonics lessons.

Pupils are offered other books from the Steps reading scheme and frequent, timetabled, opportunities to take books home from the library. Additionally, there are opportunities to experience a rich variety of literature both in English lessons and across the curriculum.

*If you wish your child to have a code to access Rhino Readers, please contact the school office.



Before reading:

Use the front and back cover to talk about what the book might be about.

The text on the back cover - the 'blurb' - helps introduce the book to the reader. If your child isn't familiar with the subject or setting, this might also be a good point to explain a bit more about it to them.





Before Reading:

Rhino Readers have specific before reading pages which prepare children for reading.

Point to each sound card and ask your child what the sound is.

If they're not sure, there's a clue in the picture and word underneath.



Before Reading:

Practise blending the sounds together to read some of the words.

The dots, dashes and lines will help them see the sounds making up each word

Encourage your child to read the 'tricky words' as whole words. They are called tricky because parts of the word cannot be 'sounded out.'

Read the focus words.

The dots show one sound made by one letter. The dashes show one sound made by more than one letter.



Talk about the book as you go.

It's important that children get the chance to talk about what they read.

Try to pause for a quick discussion every couple of pages or so (or at the end if they won't pause!)

You could ask your child to:

- answer a question;
- give an opinion;
- explain what they have found out;
- try rereading a section so it's smoother and more fluent;
- explain what a word means.



This kind of 'talking around the book' helps children make sense of what they've read.

Reading a book more than once can help improve a child's confidence. If this isn't possible, talking about the book i<u>s really helpful.</u>

Maybe ask key questions about the order of events or get your child to recall key facts.

Rhino readers often provide these questions at the back of the book.



If your child can't remember, that's ok, they can use the valuable skills of looking back through a text and scanning for information.





The Rhino Readers support quick and easy practise of Phonic sounds and have a good layout.

However...

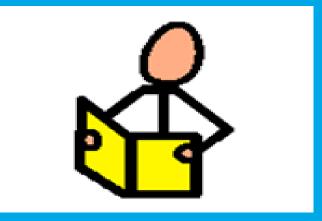
You can use the reading strategies discussed whenever you read with your child and whatever they read.

It can be a more challenging library book, a comic, a recipe or a webpage.

Ensure children understand what they are reading. Talking about the book and asking questions does this.

Sometimes, your child may not want to read to you.

Please don't worry, there are other things you can do...



Point out print and text to children.





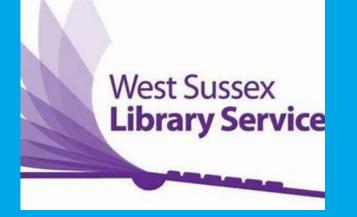
Any adult reading to your child is beneficial.

Listening to stories on audiobooks is great-ask school staff if you want help with this.













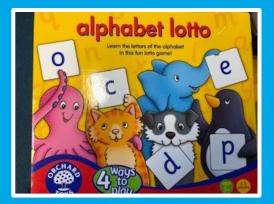
You can join the library for free.

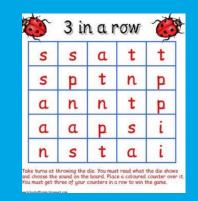
The local library often offers holiday activities and some offer free SEND sessions.









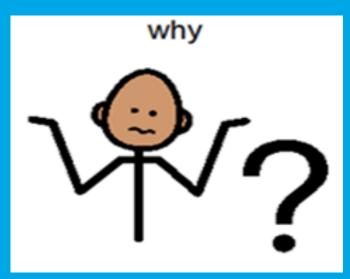




Playing letter sound games is really helpful and fun.

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Safe, happy, healthy and independent lives.

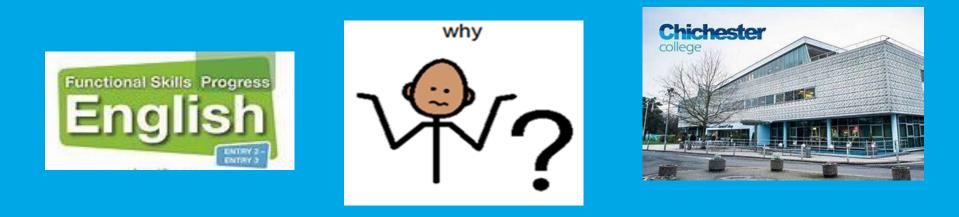
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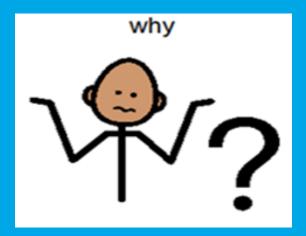
To provide the foundations for effective learning in school, college and employment...





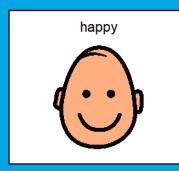
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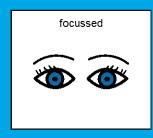






Happiness, relaxation, positive mental health and wellbeing.







Questions and further support.

If you would like any specific support with anything, or more information, then please contact us personally.

iearons@st-ants.org