

Learning how to read (word recognition)

As soon as reception children have settled into school, we introduce them to the magical journey of learning to read. This is done through our own synthetic phonics programme developed in collaboration with our local DfE-funded English Hub.

Phonics means that children are taught to link spoken sounds to individual letters or groups of letters. Over time children learn all 44 sounds used in English and the different ways of writing them.

In Classes 1 and 2 phonics lessons happen 5 days a week and include learning and practising how to recognise, say and write the sounds. Children learn to blend sounds to make decodable words; for example f-l-a-g → flag, and to segment words to be able to write them, book → b/oo/k. The children also learn the names of the letters and tricky words that cannot be or are difficult to decode, such as *the*, *I* and *me*.

Once a child has learnt enough phonics sounds, they will be given a carefully matched book to read. At home, they should practise blending the sounds to read the simple text every day. Children keep the same book for a number of days so that they can learn to read it fluently and with expression and confidence.