

# Parent Guide to Phonics and Early Reading



At St Mary's we follow Rocket Phonics as our phonic programme. It has a combination of digital, printed and online resources which are used to support your children in their phonic journey. This is fully matched to series of decodable reading books which every child reads in school and at home. There is also a series of books and activities assigned to each child through Rocket Phonics Online to support with their phonics at home. In school, each child has their own Pupil Practice Booklet which they use in class to practice and apply their phonic knowledge.

## Systematic Synthetic Phonics Teaching Principles

These are the specific knowledge and skills children need to read and write in the English Language. They can be broken down into these smaller steps:

### Knowledge of the English Alphabetic Code

- see the letters, say the sounds for reading automatically
- hear the sounds, recall the letters for spelling automatically

### Skill of blending for reading

- oral blending. (**Blending** means using phonics for reading. Children identify and blend the phonemes in order to hear and say a whole word.
- modelled blending
- supported blending
- independent blending at word, sentence and text level.

### Skill of segmenting for spelling

- oral segmenting. (**Segmenting** means using phonics for spelling and writing. Children listen to the whole word and break it down into the phonemes and write down the grapheme to represent each phoneme (sound).
- modelled segmenting
- support segmenting
- knowing which spelling alternative to use

### Skill handwriting

- Pencil hold
- Letter formation
- Positioning on a writing line
- Print before cursive

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## How can you help at home?

There are lots of simple ways you can help at home.

**Learn how to say the sounds correctly.**

[Learn](#) how to say the sounds correctly.

**Use [flashcards](#)**

This will help your child to learn how to blend sounds to read words.

**Read together**

Everyday, even if it is just for 10 minutes

Use the Pupil Guide and access the home learning resources:

**Reception:** [Parent's and Pupil's Guide](#)

**Year 1:** [Parent's and Pupil's Guide](#)

Reception

s	a	t	i
p	n	m	d
g	o	c	k
ck	e	u	r
h	b	f	ff
l	ll	ss	j
v	w	x	y

z	zz	qu	ch
sh	th	ng	ai
ee	igh	oa	oo
ar	or	ur	ow
oi	ear	air	ure
er	wh	ph	ay
a-e	e-e	ie	ea

Year 1

i	i-e	ie	y
o-e	ow	oe	o
y	ey	u	u-e
ue	ew	er	ir
ou	oy	au	aw
oul	a	al	ear
or	eer	ere	are

ear	our	ore	oor
augh	c	g	ea
se	ce	ch	dge
ge	le	ed	mb
kn	gn	wr	tch
s	si	ture	sc
st	ti	ci	ssi