



Phonics

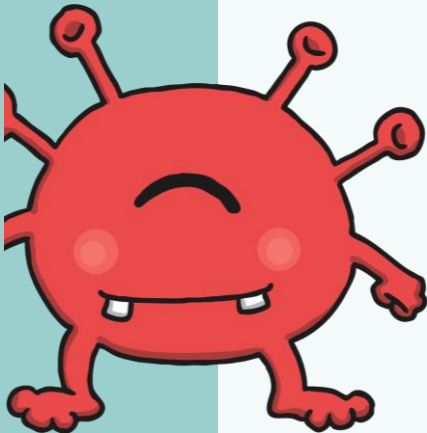
EYFs and KS1

THINK BIG
DO THE
RIGHT THING
TEAM SPIRIT

What is it like to learn to read?

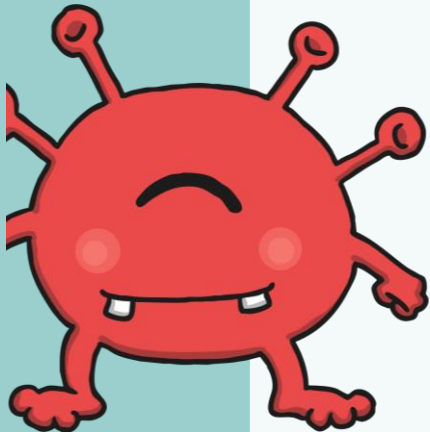
Do you remember how you
learnt?

If a child sees an unfamiliar word, it can be daunting. However, with the use of phonics, they can decode a word, sound it out and blend. They do this by looking for **digraphs** and **trigraphs**. This helps them with their reading fluency.



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Using this knowledge, they can
decode and blend.
They will use sound buttons to help
them.



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Phonics is the way children learn to read.

It is taught in

Phases: 1 – 6

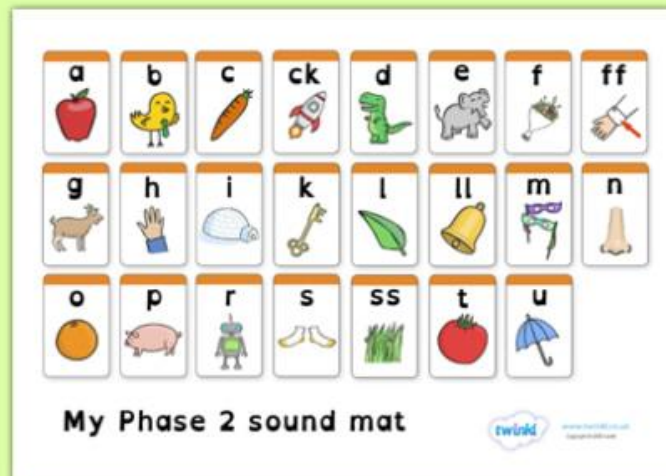
Phase 1: focuses on developing children's listening vocabulary and speaking skills.

This is taught in Nursery.

Phase 2: children begin to learn the sounds that letters make (phonemes).

There are 44 sounds in all.

Some are made with two letters, but **in Phase 2, children focus on learning the 19 most common single letter sounds.**



Phase 3: introduces children to the remaining, more difficult and/or less commonly used **phonemes**.

There are around 25 of these, mainly made up of two letters such as /ch/, /ar/, /ow/ and /ee/.



Phase 4: No new sounds are taught in this phase, but children are exposed to 'consonant clusters' e.g. /nk/, /cl/ and /mp/.

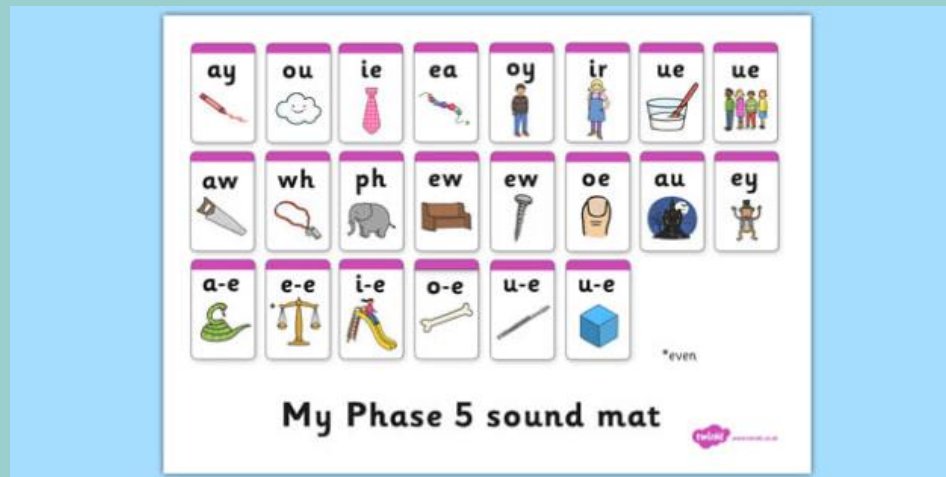
This phase is about consolidating and refining their knowledge to date, introducing more spelling patterns and tricky words, and increasing vocabulary,'



Phase 5: Children learn new graphemes (different ways of spelling each sound) and alternative pronunciations for these: for example, learning that the grapheme 'ow' makes a different sound in 'snow' and 'cow'.

They should become quicker at blending, and start to do it silently.

They learn about split digraphs (the 'magic e') such as the a-e in 'name.'



Phase 6: Children should be fluent readers by now and can read hundreds of words using one of these strategies:

- Reading them automatically
- Decoding them quickly and silently
- Decoding them aloud

Children should now be spelling most words accurately.

Key words and meaning:



Phoneme – the smallest unit of sound

Grapheme – letters used to represent a sound e.g. /ee/

Digraph – two letters making one sound

Trigraph – three letters making one sound

Split-digraph – a digraph split by another sound

Decode – Sounding out phonemes/graphemes in a word

Blending – putting sounds together to make a word

Alternative pronunciation – different ways to say a grapheme e.g. /ow/ in cow and /ow/ in bow.

Tricky words: words that do not follow typical spelling rules e.g. the

How is phonics taught at St Ursula's?

Phonics is taught daily.

Revise previous sound, teach new sound and apply i.e. write a sentence using the sound.

Tricky words are taught alongside sounds.

It is streamed into 3 groups – dependent on the child's speed of reading and phonic knowledge.

Termly checks in Year 1 to ensure children are on track to maximise progress for the Screening Test.

Phonics is reinforced throughout English and Reading lessons.

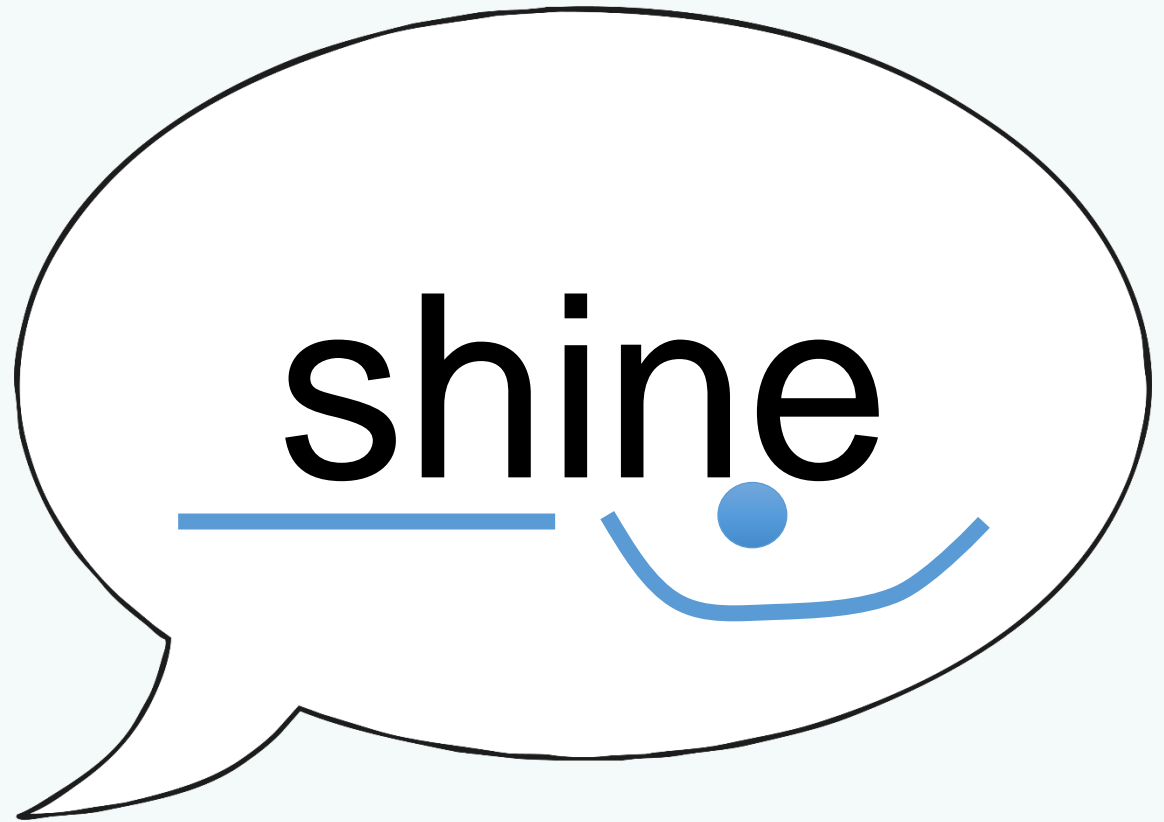
AN EXAMPLE LESSON...

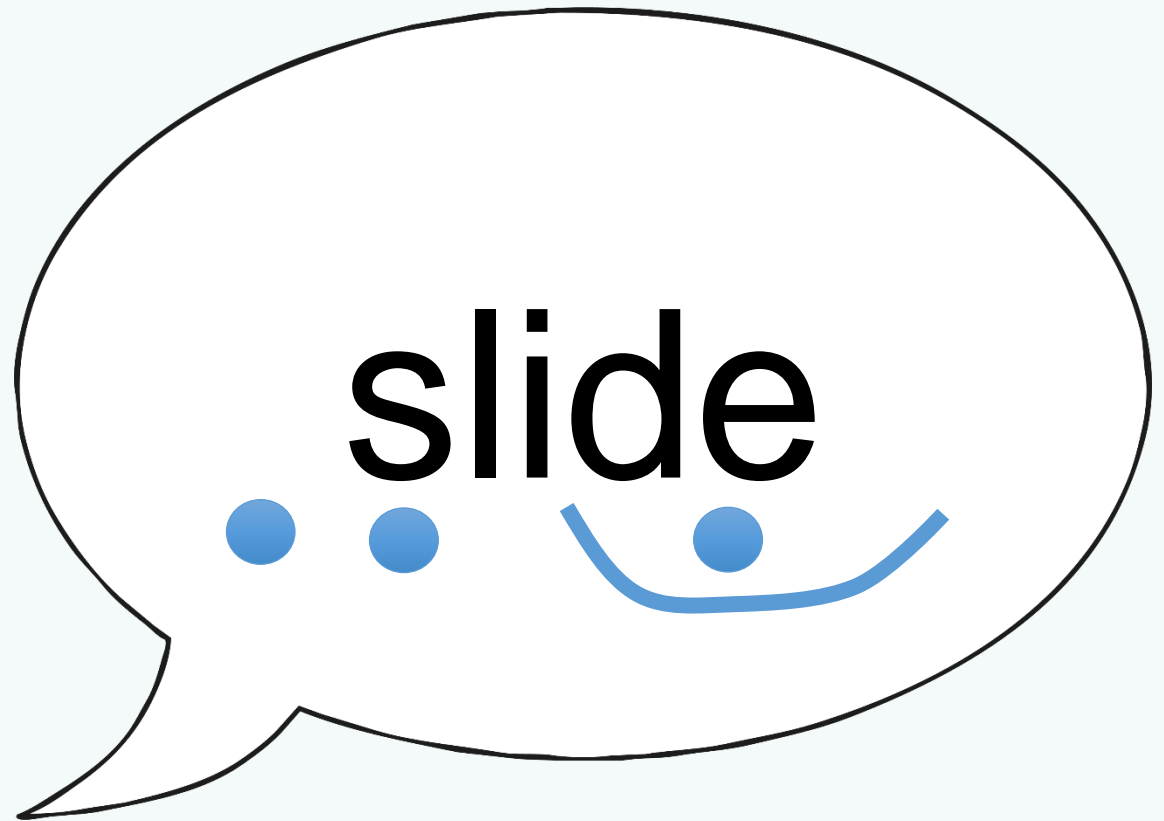
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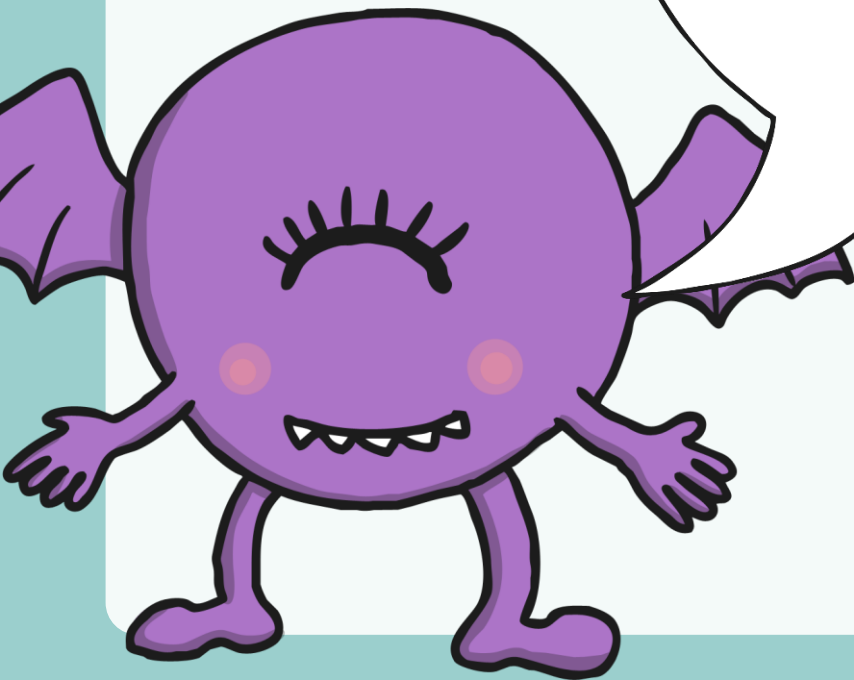
ee

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thrine



Phonics Screening Test

Firstly, we do not call it a test to the children. We like to call it the 'Queen's Quiz!'

It is taken by all year one children in the country.

It is in June.

There are 40 words. 20 real words and 20 alien (nonsense) words.

The pass mark is not known until all children have taken the test nationally.

If children do not pass, they will retake the test in Year 2.

Designed to confirm whether children have sufficient phonic, decoding and blending skills.

Taken 1:1 with a teacher. No time limit, although 10 minutes is advised.

Example Of The Check

Practice sheet: Real Words

beg

[twinkl.co.uk](https://www.twinkl.co.uk)

at

[twinkl.co.uk](https://www.twinkl.co.uk)

sum

[twinkl.co.uk](https://www.twinkl.co.uk)

in

[twinkl.co.uk](https://www.twinkl.co.uk)

Example Of The Check

Practice sheet: Pseudo Words

vap



twinkl.co.uk

osk



twinkl.co.uk

ot



twinkl.co.uk

ect



twinkl.co.uk

How you can support your child?

Practise! Make it fun... 'I Spy' is a fun game to play.

Reading daily – little and often is better.

Comprehension – ask lots of questions when hearing your child read.

Discuss meaning of new words to expand their vocabulary.

Using a phonics mat.....



Make it fun!

Games to play: How many sounds can you say in one minute?

Someone say a sound and the child to 'splat' the sound using a pen/hand.

Think of a word for each sound on the mat.

Cut up the graphemes and match to others that make the same sound.

ONLINE RESOURCES

PHONICS PLAY

[HTTPS://WWW.PHONICSPLAY.CO.UK/PICNICONPLUTO.HTML](https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/picniconpluto.html)

LETTERS AND SOUNDS

[HTTP://WWW.LETTERS-AND-SOUNDS.COM](http://www.letters-and-sounds.com)

ALPHABLOCKS

[HTTPS://WWW.BBC.CO.UK/CBEEBIES/GROWNUPS/THE-ALPHABLOCKS-GUIDE-TO-PHONICS](https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/the-alphablocks-guide-to-phonics)

QUESTIONS