

# ELS Essential Letters and Sounds

developed by Knowledge Schools Trust

**Getting all children to  
read well, quickly.**



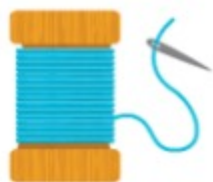
OXFORD

Phonics Talk  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023

# What is Phonics?

A method of teaching beginners to read and pronounce words by learning to associate letters or letter groups with the sounds they represent.

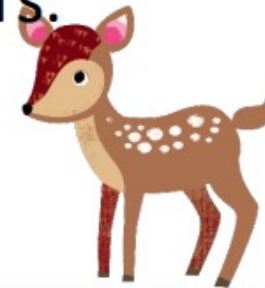
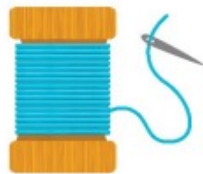
There are 44 main sounds in the English Language. Each sound is represented by a grapheme (the written representation of a sound).



## What is ELS?

Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS) is our chosen phonics programme. It teaches children to read by identify the phonemes (smallest unit of sound) and graphemes (written version of the sound) within words and using these to read words.

Children experience the joy of books and language whilst rapidly acquiring the skills they need to become fluent independent readers and writers.

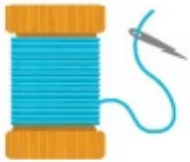


# Pronouncing pure sounds

We must use pure sounds when we are pronouncing the sounds and supporting children in reading words.

If we mispronounce these sounds we will make reading harder for our children.

There are videos for this on our school website where you can hear the correct pronunciation of the sounds.



Videos available on the school website:

- Curriculum
- English
- Videos at bottom of page

# Phonics Screening Check

The Phonics Screening Check is a statutory Year 1 assessment that started in 2012.

The Phonics Screening Check will take place during the week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

The check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding and blending to an appropriate standard.

There will be **40 words** that your child will be asked to read; 20 real and 20 nonsense 'alien' words.

Each child will sit one to one with their own class teacher, as they would at several other times during the year.

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# Phonics Screening Check

There is no time limit. The children can take as long as they like.  
Most children take approximately 10 minutes.

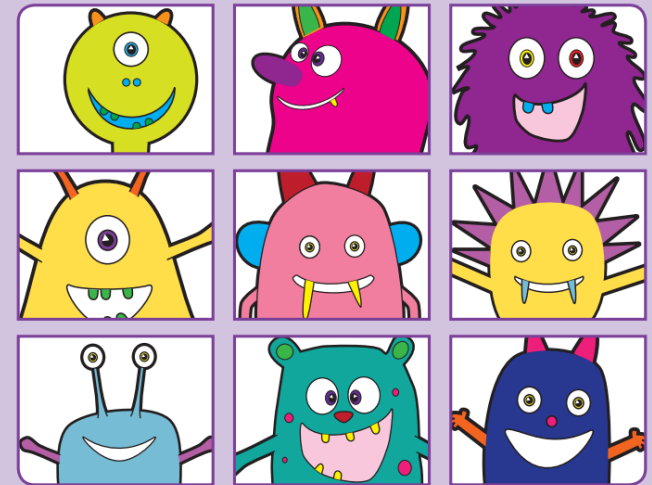
The children are encouraged to sound out and blend each word to support accurate reading.

Your child's end of Year 1 report will state whether the children met the expected standard.

Children who do not meet the expected standard will receive further support in Year 2, before sitting a second attempt in June 2024.

## Phonics screening check

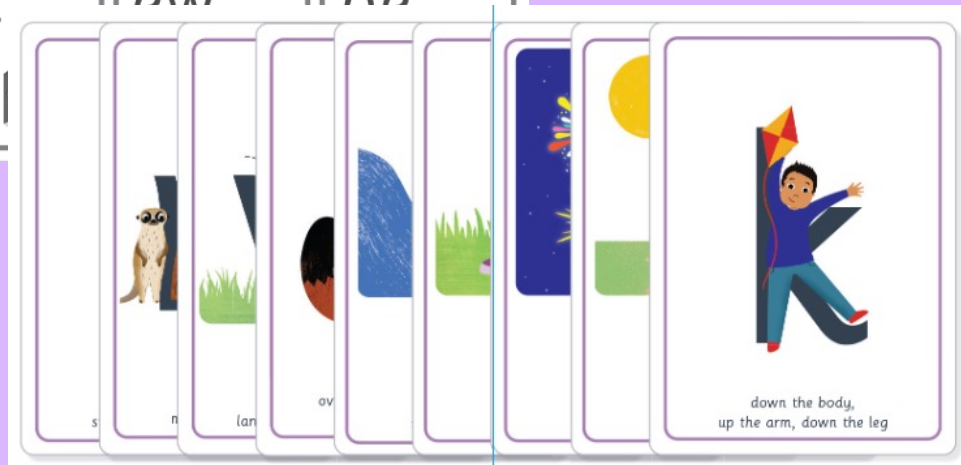
Pupils' materials



# Supporting your child with reading at home

- Children are only reading from books that are entirely decodable
- We only use pure sounds when decoding words (no 'uh' after the sound)
- We want them to read their book 4 times across the week working on these skills:
  - decode
  - fluency
  - expression

# Recognising specific GPC's (grapheme-phoneme correspondence)



Your child's class teacher may send home some resources to help your child secure their GPC recognition.

These should be short sharp exercises/games practised regularly.

# Questions

