

St. James Catholic Primary School

Phonics in KS1

In St. James we teach phonics daily in small groups. All the planning is created by the Class Teachers and linked to the letters and sounds phonic phases.

Children are given multi sensory and learning experiences in lessons and enjoy joining in many different activities and games.

Children work in small groups across KS1 according to individual needs, sometimes repeating phases.

Children start with Phase 2 in Reception and should be ready to start Phase 6 Autumn term in Year 2.

What is phonics and why do we teach it?

Phonics is the relationship between letters and spoken sounds.

It teaches the children to read and write.

It is the main form of teaching reading, writing and spelling in our school.

It is taught in phases linked to letters and sounds but with lots of multisensory activities created by the Class Teachers.

In Phase 2, letters and their sounds are introduced one at a time. A set of letters is taught each week, in the following sequence:

Set 1: s, a, t, p

Set 2: i, n, m, d

Set 3: g, o, c, k

Set 4: ck, e, u, r

Set 5: h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss

Phase 3

Set 6: j, v, w, x

Set 7: y, z, zz, qu

Consonant digraphs: ch, sh, th, ng

**Vowel digraphs: ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear,
air, ure, er**

During Phase 3, children will also learn the letter names using an alphabet song, although they will continue to use the sounds when decoding words.

The children will also learn to read and spell tricky words (that cannot be decoded)

he she we me be was you they all are my her

Phase 4

In Phase 4 words are often referred to in relation to how many vowels and consonants they contain. As children progress through Phase 4 they become more confident and skilled in reading and spelling words with a greater number of letters and graphemes.

CVC Words

The word '**cod**' is a **CVC** word (consonant / vowel / consonant). Other **CVC** words include: **sad, net & him.**

CCVC Words

The word '**crab**' is a **CCVC** word (consonant / consonant / vowel / consonant). Other **CCVC** words include: **trim, flat & step.**

CVCC Words

The word '**help**' is a **CVCC** word (consonant / vowel / consonant / consonant). Other **CVCC** words include: **fist, mend and test.**

Phase 5.

In Phase 5 children are introduced to new graphemes for reading and spelling. Some of these graphemes represent phonemes (sounds) that they have already learnt a grapheme for.

For example, in Phase 3 children were taught 'ai' as the grapheme for the phoneme /a/ (as in rain). In Phase 5, children are taught that the phoneme /a/ can also be represented by the graphemes 'ay' (as in play) or 'a-e' (as in make). This variation needs to be taught as it is common in our language system.

Phase 6

To become successful readers, children must understand what they read. They need to learn a range of comprehension strategies and should be encouraged to reflect upon their own understanding and learning. Such an approach, which starts at the earliest stages, gathers momentum as children develop their fluency.

In Phase 6 children need to be taught to go beyond literal and over time they need to develop self-regulated comprehension strategies:

- activating prior knowledge;
- clarifying meanings - with a focus on vocabulary work;
- generating questions, interrogating the text;
- constructing mental images during reading;
- summarising.