

EYFS
Reception-age
parent drop-in
2026

Welcome

ELS Essential Letters and Sounds

developed by Knowledge Schools Trust

Getting all children to
read well, quickly.



OXFORD

What is ELS?

Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS) is our chosen phonics programme

- We use a **simple, consistent approach** to teach phonics and this teaches the 'code' for reading.
- We have **mnemonics and rhymes** to support learning and recall eg. l - down the long ladder
- We **teach phonics every single day** from the first days of Reception
- There are **44 main sounds** in the English Language. Each sound is represented by a grapheme (the written representation of a sound).
- **Phonics throughout the day** to review new sounds & graphemes taught
- Lots of opportunities for oral blending- /c/ /oa/ /t/

challenging

provide the code to read

read well, quickly

takes time to master these skills

so many ways to spell the sounds eg. meet, meat



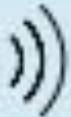
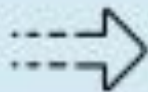
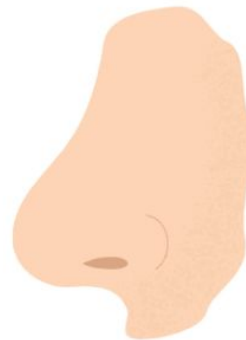
How do we teach phonics?

Teach

These words all have the /n/ sound in.

n

n ... n ... nest
n ... n ... nose
n ... n ... nail



say the word

warm it up
stretch the word

robot talk
the word

blend the word

count the sounds
within the word

say the word

Pronouncing pure sounds

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

c a t **not** **cuh a tuh**

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. Staff are happy to model so please come and speak to us.



Supporting your child with reading at home

- book bundle sent home on Mondays with a reading bookmark
- reading books sent home are entirely decodable
- we only use pure sounds when decoding words (no 'uh' after the sound)
- **practise reading their book 4 times across the week**
- share the weekly library book
- share books you have at home
- help your child achieve their reading badge



This bookmark belongs to:

Titles borrowed this week:

Phonics decodable text:

Please read the Phonics decodable text **4 times** across the week. *Spending 10 mins a day reading with your child will hugely support them in their journey to becoming a successful reader.*

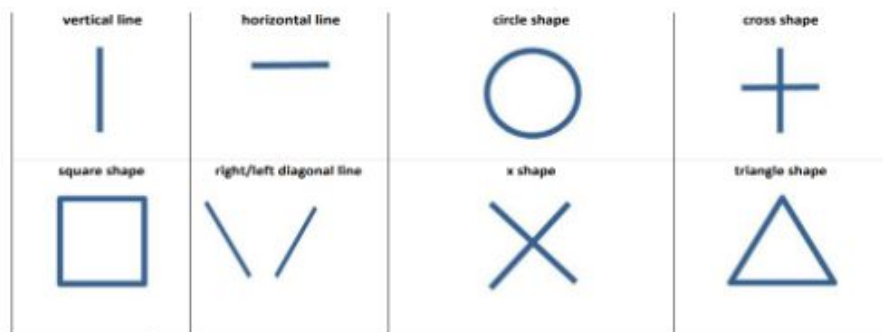
Library book:

Please share the Library book with your child and encourage reading for pleasure. Your child is able to choose these and they may well choose to borrow their favourite book more than once.

All books will come home on a **Monday**. Please ensure they are returned to school the following Monday together with the bookmark ready to be changed.

Physical Development: Fine Motor

Before learning to write letters, a child needs to master pre writing shapes. Pre-writing shapes are basic shapes which are used in the formation of most letters and numbers and are typically mastered in sequence. Have a go at home.



Reading at Home

Complete and return this bookmark to school **Monday 21/9/26**

[illegible]

Week 2 Phonics focus - say the sounds

● **i, n, m, d**

Let's read these words with the sounds /s/ /a/ /t/ /p/ /i/ /n/ /m/ /d/ in.

Eg. **a-t (at)**

s-a-t (sat)

p-a-t (pat)

s-i-t (sit)

t-i-p (tip)

m-a-d (mad)

a-n-d (and)

Now let's read these
harder to read and
spell words.

a

I

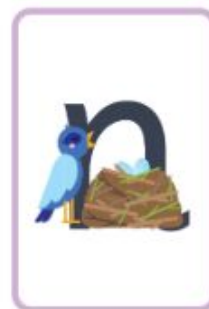
the

no

Writing focus - we are learning these mnemonics and rhymes to help support correct letter formation when we write the letter sounds we need to write letters and words. As we write the letter we need to talk through the movement our pencil needs to make. Letters always start from the top.



i (inventor) down her body, spot her idea



n (nest) down the bird and over her nest



m (meerkat) meerkat, mound, mound

d (duck) over his back and around the tail, up
his neck and down to his
feet



Assessment

- **Reception Baseline Assessment** , or RBA is a very short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematical skills when they begin school. It is not a pass or fail assessment. Its main purpose is to create a starting point 'snapshot' of where your child is when they start school.
- **Ongoing assessment** forms part of our day-to-day observations about children's progress. It supports and informs planning and day-to-day activities to meet needs and develop learning.
- At the end of the reception year, teachers make a holistic, best-fit judgement about a child's learning and development, and their readiness for year 1 using the **Early Learning Goals** (ELGs).