

# Phonics at St Agnes CE Primary School



At St Agnes CE Primary School we provide an engaging and inspiring curriculum that promotes our core value of 'love to learn'. Based upon the needs of our children, families and the community, our curriculum aims to equip pupils in acquiring the cultural capital needed to flourish in education and beyond. We achieve this through a knowledge based and skills led approach, rich in language and vocabulary, supported through enriching experiences which allows all of our children to 'learn do well'. Pupils will leave St Agnes well prepared for the next stage of their education – enabling them to grow into active, responsible members of society 'living well together', in modern Britain.

## Why we teach Phonics

We teach phonics to ensure that children are equipped with the key skills to read and write words, and so that eventually they are able to be fluent readers and apply their phonic skills in their writing.

“Cracking the code” and learning to read is an essential skill for success in school and later in life.

Government research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way, starting with the easiest sounds and progressing through to the most complex, it is the most effective way of teaching young children to read.

## How we teach Phonics

At St Agnes C of E school, all Early Years and Key Stage One children take part in high quality, daily phonics sessions based on “Letters and Sounds”. Letters and sounds is a six phase teaching programme, published in 2007 and we use this as the basis of our phonics curriculum.

The daily sessions are fun, involving lots of speaking, listening and games where the emphasis is on children’s participation. Children then use their phonic knowledge for reading, writing and independent play.

Teachers assess and monitor children's phonic knowledge and blending skills using an app which helps them quickly identify which letters and sounds have been learnt.

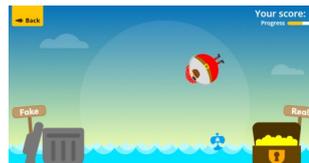
Using this information, teachers then plan and teach daily sessions to children, who are taught in small groups. A multisensory engaging approach is used, so that children want to join in. We also use technology daily, the interactive games are very popular and the children respond to this very well.

Each session follows the same pattern; a quick recap of what the children already know, the introduction of a new sound, followed by the opportunity to read and write (use and apply) the new sound within words, captions and sentences.

Children have the opportunity to practice and improve their phonics skills in activities set up in each classroom, in the reading and writing areas, on the computers and iPads, as well as in the outdoor play area.



*Buried Treasure is a popular game that St'. Agnes' children love ; it can be played in the sand pit as well as on a computer!*



*Building words with magnetic letters is another fun way of learning how to spell.*



### Links:

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

<https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zf2yf4j>

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/>

## What Phonics looks like at St Agnes?

Phonics is taught well by skilled and knowledgeable staff and most children use their phonic knowledge to become fluent readers and their spelling becomes increasingly accurate.

Teachers record children’s attainment and monitor their progress in phonics using a phonics tracker app; this is an efficient and effective way of knowing what each child’s next steps in their phonics learning will be.

When walking through our school, the teaching of phonics and its importance is evident—print rich classrooms, display walls and high quality activities outside the classroom, as well as indoors, show that here at St.Agnes' the importance of good systematic phonics teaching and learning is paramount.

Parents are keen to be involved in helping their child to learn the letters and sounds and find our phonics workshops useful - for showing them some straightforward activities which they can do with their child at home.

Children in Year 1 throughout the country take a phonics screening check in June. Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when in Year 1. The results of the Phonics screening check have improved in recent years and the result in 2019 was 82%. - broadly in line with national attainment.

**“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.” — Dr. Seuss**