



Information for Year 1 parents

In the English language there are 26 letters and 44 sounds and there are a variety of ways to make each sound.

At St Katherine's we follow a quality first phonics programme called Sounds-Write. The Programme consists of three parts;

- Initial Code - taught in Year R
- Extended Code – taught in Year 1 -3
- Polysyllabic words – taught Year 1-6

In Year R your child was taught the **Initial-Code** units which introduce and teach the basic English alphabet code (Please see attached Initial Code sound mat).

Now they are in Year 1 they have moved on to begin learning the **Extended Code** ((Please see attached Extended Code sound mat). The Extended Code is the point at which the alphabet code becomes more complex and Children learn that;

- Some sound symbols (graphemes) represent more than one sound ('ea' in steak, bread, sea)
- Many sounds (phonemes) can be represented by more than one grapheme (e.g. spelled in more than one way for example, ay, ea, a-e, ai)

Segmenting

When spelling or writing words children are taught to segment or separate the sounds apart. (boat – b/oa/t)

Blending

Children are also taught how to blend sounds or put sounds together to read words. To do this they need to spot the sounds within a word and push or blend them together to read the word.

When teaching sounds, it is very important to say the sounds correctly. For further information and videos showing you how to say sounds correctly please follow the web link below.

Sounds of English - <https://www.st-thomasaquinas.co.uk/sounds-write/>

If you would like to learn more about how Sounds-Write is used there are now **free** courses available for parents;

<https://www.udemy.com/course/help-your-child-to-read-and-write/>

<https://www.udemy.com/course/help-your-child-to-read-and-write-part-2/>

How can parents help?

- Look at the sounds inside the children's reading record book and go through them on a regular basis.
- Listen to your child read the book sent home every day, encouraging them to develop fluency and expression.
- When writing, help them to say words slowly listening carefully to all the sounds they can hear.
- Write a word and count the sounds or draw the sound buttons (beans, sausages and curly fries).
- Spot the sound in a book.
- Play sound bingo.
- Go on a sound hunt.

Phonics Assessment in Year 1

In June (w.c. 10th June) all Year 1 pupils across the country will take a 'phonics screening check'.

The aim of this check is to ensure that children have confidently learnt to recognise all 40+ phonemes, and that they are able to blend and segment appropriately. These are vital reading skills.

During the check your child will read 40 words of increasing complexity. 20 of them are real words and 20 are pseudo (made-up) words. Your child will have spent a lot of time in school practising this and will be used to completing similar activities in class.

Y2 children who did not pass in Y1 will also re-sit the check during the same week.

The check is there to help us recognise any gaps in your child's phonic knowledge, and to show their fluency when reading and decoding words. We like to see it as a useful tool!!

You will be informed as to whether your child passed the screening check in the summer. We will not know a pass mark until it is released nationally in the summer, so cannot tell you before then.

There are also lots of websites where there are many free activities for children to do.

- <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>
Username - stkaths
Password - school2022
- <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/learn-to-read-phonics/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcqqtftr/articles/zgnrf82>



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