

Phonics

At St Joseph's we passionately believe that the teaching of phonics ensures fundamental skills that not only support children in reading and writing but have an impact on the rest of the curriculum too. Phonics is taught in a structured programme of daily lessons across FS/KS1 and KS2 in groups differentiated according to children's phonic awareness and development.

We follow the Letters and Sounds programme, providing a synthetic and multisensory approach to the teaching of phonics. Each session gives an opportunity for children to revisit their previous experience, be taught new skills, practise together and apply what they have learnt. We focus on teaching

- Letters are symbols (spellings) that represent sounds.
- The same sound can be spelled in more than one way (goat, slow, note, toe, over).
- Many spellings represent more than one sound (ea in read and bread).

We ensure that the skills taught within our Phonics Lessons are

- Blending – the ability to push sounds together to build words (c-u-p = cup)
- Segmenting – the ability to pull apart the individual sounds in words (man = m-a-n)
- Phoneme manipulation – the ability to insert sounds into words and omit sounds out of words. This skill is necessary to test out alternatives for spellings that represent more than one sound.

