



# Phonics Knowledge Organiser



## What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of decoding written letters (graphemes) and spoken sounds (phonemes) to read. We follow a programme called 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' – a government approved systematic synthetic phonics programme for the teaching of phonics.

We believe that it is vital that children are taught to read as soon as possible once they have started in Reception and we begin our direct teaching of phonics in the second full week of children attending school in September. This ensures that children learn phoneme-grapheme-correspondences quickly which in turn supports them in becoming fluent readers. We continue to support children to develop the skills needed for blending (combining sounds to read words) and segmenting (separating words into separate sounds for writing) alongside the teaching of phoneme-grapheme-correspondences.

## Key Vocabulary

Little Wandle	The government validated SSP which we follow to teach phonics.
Phoneme	A single unit of sound which can be made using 1 or more letters eg. 'ai' 'ee' 't'
Grapheme	Written letters which represent one single sound (phoneme) e.g. 'a' 's' 'ph' 'ai'
Digraph	Two letters which make one sound 'ea' 'ay' 'sh'
Split Vowel Digraph	Two letters which make one sound but are split by another letter 'a-e' 'i-e' 'o-e'
Trigraph	Three letters which go together to make one sound 'igh' 'ear' 'air'
Blending	Saying the individual sounds which make up a word and merging the sounds together to say the word.
Segmenting	The opposite of blending. Splitting a word into individual sounds, used for spelling and writing.
Compound word	A word that contains two or more root words news+paper fire+work
Common Exception Word/ Tricky Word	Words that are tricky to sound out 'said' 'because' 'Mrs' or can't be phonetically decoded.
Pseudo/ Alien word	Words used to check phonics decoding skills which are not real (for use in Year 1 onwards).
Decoding	Breaking down a word into different phonemes to help read.



