



Phonics at St. Aidan's ...

Children in Nursery are made aware of sounds around them and the focus is on aural awareness and development. As children move into Reception and Key Stage 1 we use the Sounds – Write programme to teach daily, discrete sound lessons, lasting 30 minutes.

Sounds-Write and the DfE

Sounds-Write is acknowledged by the DfE as meeting ALL its criteria for an effective phonics teaching programme.

Teaching the Initial Code

In Reception, one sound/one spelling, one-syllable, then CVC words only are introduced. As the programme progresses, the complexity of one-syllable words is increased to four-, five- and six-sound words of the structure CVCC, CCVC, CCVCC / CCCVCC, before introducing the most common consonant digraphs.

The Sounds-Write programme teaches pupils to understand the way the alphabet code work. Children will be able to write almost anything they want to write by using plausible (phonetic) spellings for sounds. In this way, pupils, teachers and parents can read anything the pupil has written. As they progress through Key Stage 1, pupils learn systematically how words are spelled in English. This ability to express oneself in writing from the start of school gives children enormous confidence, which naturally feeds back into the other kinds of learning taking place within the school curriculum.

Teaching the Extended Code and Polysyllabic Words

From Y1 onwards, all the remaining common vowel and consonant sound to spelling correspondences are taught until all the common spellings for the forty-four sounds

in English have been covered. In parallel with this, pupils are taught how to read and spell polysyllabic words, progressing from two-syllable to five- and six-syllable words.

A multi-sensory programme

Throughout, Sounds-Write promotes the use of multi-sensory engagement with the materials pupils are working with. Visual, auditory and kinaesthetic activities are at all times combined simultaneously to promote learning.

Reading books

In Reception and Key Stage 1 we use Sound – Write reading books and Dandelion reading books. Both schemes are suitable as they consolidate sounds recently learned in a stimulating way. (Pupils also have access to Oxford Reading Tree and RWI books for individual reading. Badger books are used for guided reading.)

Please also see Teaching Sounds, A Guide for Parents (available on school website).

