

Phonics at St Mary's Catholic Primary School

At St Mary's, we follow the Sounds-Write programme to teach phonics. Sounds-Write will be introduced in reception and taught in KS1 and where needed within KS2. Sounds-Write is a very highly structured, multi-sensory, incremental and code-orientated, instructional approach to teaching children to read and spell.

The four key concepts that children are taught are:

1. letters are symbols that represent sounds
2. sounds can be spelt using 1, 2, 3 or 4 letters
3. the same sound can be spelled in different ways
4. the same spelling can represent different sounds

The three key skills children need to master are:

1. blending
2. segmenting
3. phoneme manipulation (swapping sounds)

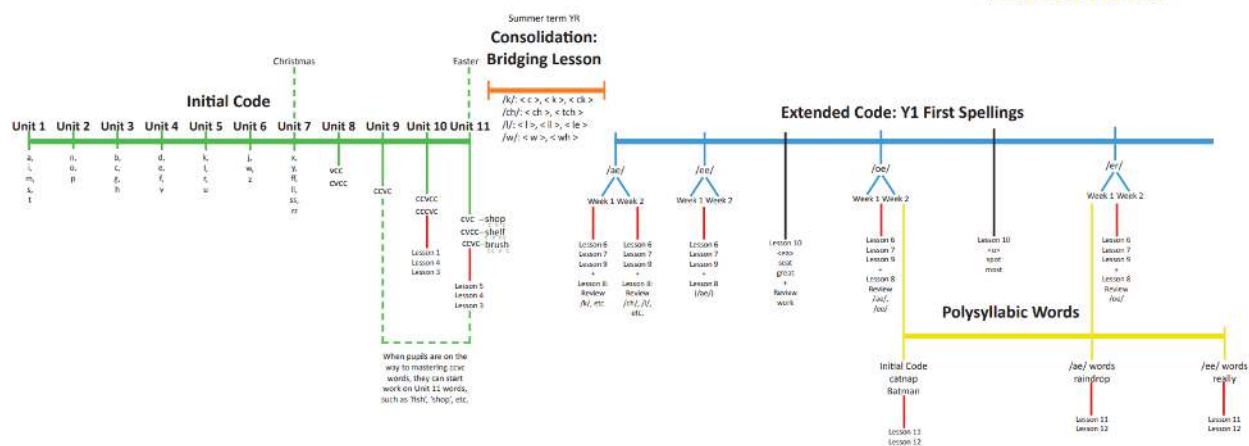
We begin by teaching sound to symbol (spelling) within the Initial Code that begins in Reception where children practice all three key skills whilst learning the 1:1 correspondences and securing their understanding of key concept 1. This builds up confidence and phonic knowledge in a truly reversible system, enabling them to decode and encode a wide range of words and sentences. At first, children learn to read and write simple one-syllable words with a CVC structure. Complexity of word structure systematically builds up so that children apply their code knowledge to monosyllabic words with up to six sounds.

Once the Initial Code has been mastered, children will continue to practice all 3 key skills whilst learning the 'Extended Code' which explores key concepts 2, 3 and 4. Learning of the Extended Code is a lifelong process – we all continue to develop our understanding of this code whenever we encounter new words. Whilst learning the Extended Code, children read and write monosyllabic and polysyllabic words at an age-appropriate level.

Our staff within EYFS and KS1 have attended a four-day Sounds-Write course followed by an accredited assignment, before teaching the Sounds-Write phonics programme to the children in our school. This ensures consistency within all lessons.

Curriculum Coverage

Sounds-Write Timeline UK



Free Course for Parents

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

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

Initial Code App

Available on the App Store for iPad.

