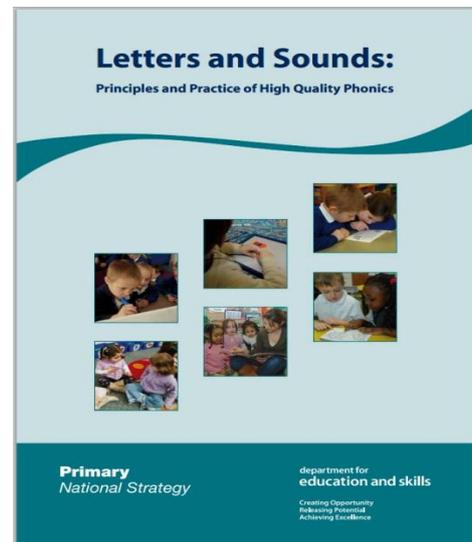


Teaching of Phonics and Early Reading at St. Alban's Catholic Primary School

At St Alban's we follow the Letters and Sounds publication as a basis for our phonics and teaching of early reading. Letters and Sounds is a phonics resource published by the Department for Education and Skills in 2007. It aims to build children's speaking and listening skills as well as to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children starting by the age of five, with the aim of them becoming fluent readers by age seven. We begin this programme in Foundation Stage 1 (Nursery), and continue through Foundation Stage 2 and into Key Stage One.

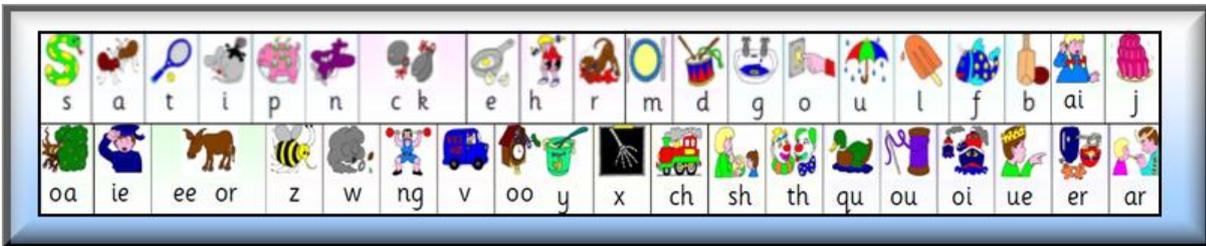
Letters and Sounds is split into six phases, each encompassing a specific amount of knowledge and



Phase	Phonic Knowledge and Skills
<i>Phase One</i> (Nursery/Reception)	Activities are divided into seven aspects, including environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body sounds, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and finally oral blending and segmenting.
<i>Phase Two</i> (Reception) up to 6 weeks	Learning 19 letters of the alphabet and one sound for each. Blending sounds together to make words. Segmenting words into their separate sounds. Beginning to read simple captions.
<i>Phase Three</i> (Reception) up to 12 weeks	The remaining 7 letters of the alphabet, one sound for each. Graphemes such as ch, oo, th representing the remaining phonemes not covered by single letters. Reading captions, sentences and questions. On completion of this phase, children will have learnt the "simple code", i.e. one grapheme for each phoneme in the English language.
<i>Phase Four</i> (Reception) 4 to 6 weeks	No new grapheme-phoneme correspondences are taught in this phase. Children learn to blend and segment longer words with adjacent consonants, e.g. swim, clap, jump.
<i>Phase Five</i> (Throughout Year 1)	Now we move on to the "complex code". Children learn more graphemes for the phonemes which they already know, plus different ways of pronouncing the graphemes they already know.
<i>Phase Six</i> (Throughout Year 2 and beyond)	Working on spelling, including prefixes and suffixes, doubling and dropping letters etc.



In the Foundation Stage we introduce the different phonemes (sounds) to the children by using the Jolly Phonics actions and rhymes. We find that this multi-sensory approach allows all children to access the phonic knowledge that they need to begin to learn to read.



As the children move into Key Stage One, they are less likely to need to actions and rhymes for support, as this knowledge has been embedded. Here they will move into Phase 5 of Letters and Sounds, and then onto Phase 6.

We support this phonics teaching with a variety of reading books, which are available for the children to take home and share with their grown-ups. We have a good selection from different reading schemes, which are all book band coded to allow children to choose within a specific level. Some of the reading schemes we have books from are:

