



Exmoor Link Federation

East Anstey Primary School, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 9JP

Telephone: 01398 341369

Bishops Nympton Primary School, South Molton, EX36 4PU

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Email: bursar@exmoorlink.org

Executive Headteacher: Mr T Gurney

Phonics

At Exmoor Link Federation Schools, we teach phonics using the Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS) DfE accredited scheme. ELS was developed with the intent to ensure that 'every child can read well, quickly'.

ELS teaches children to read using a systematic synthetic phonics approach which our teachers implement within a learning environment that is rich in talk and story, where children experience and enjoy books and language whilst acquiring the skills to become fluent independent readers and writers.

Phonic sessions are taught daily from Reception up to the end of KS1, with further interventions provided for children requiring further support to thrive.

Progression through the Phases

Phase 1 (Nursery)

Children are exposed to environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body percussion, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and oral blending.

Phase 2 (Reception)

Children are taught oral blending at this stage. They begin sounding out and blending with the first 23 grapheme-phoneme correspondences (GPCs) taught.

Sounds

s, a, t, p
i, n, m, d
g, o, c, k
ck, e, u, r
ss, h, b, f, l, ff, ll

Challenging Words

I, the, no
put, of, is
to, go, into
pull, as, his





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Phase 3* (Reception)

*ELS covers more than just Phase 3 graphemes at this stage - we introduce some challenges from Phase 4 alongside the Phase 3 teaching to extend children.

Phase 2 will be revised during this phase. The next 29 GPCs are taught and sounding out and blending opportunities are provided throughout.

Sounds	Challenging Words
j, v, w, x y, zz, qu, ch sh, th, ng, nk ai, ee, igh, oa (-es as a word ending)	he, she, buses we, me, be push, was, her my, you

Phase 3-4 (Reception)

Children are introduced to CVCC words during this phase as well as CCVCC, CCCVC and CCCVCC words. Opportunities to revise Phase 2 and 3 will be provided.

Sounds	Challenging Words
ar, ur, oo, or ow, oi, ear, air ure, er, ow (-ed as a word ending) (-ed /t/ as a word ending) (-ed /d/ as a word ending) (-er as a word ending) (-est as a word ending)	they, all, are ball, tall when, what said, so, have were, out, like some, come, there little, one, do children, love





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Phase 5 (Reception/Year 1)

Teaching and learning of Phase 5 sounds begins to support the introduction of reading.

Sounds	Challenging Words
ay, ou, ie, ea (-le as a word ending) oy, ir, ue, aw wh, ph, ew, oe au, ey, a-e, e-e i-e, o-e, u-e, c	oh, their people, Mr, Mrs your, ask, should would, could, asked house, mouse, water want, very please once, any many, again, who whole, where, two

Phase 5 (Year 1)

Previous Phase 5 GPCs are revised. Alternative spellings for previously taught sounds are introduced. Oral blending opportunities are continuously provided.

Sounds (alternatives - see word for pronunciation)	Challenging Words
a (acorn), ey (they), ea (great), eigh (weight), a (father), e (he), i (find), y (by) o (go), a (was), u (push), ch (school), ch (chef), ea (head) or (world), ear (learn), ou (soup), oul (shoulder), ie (brief), ve (have), y (gym) are (care), ere (there), ear (pear), tch (catch) o (brother), g (gem), ge (fringe), dge (bridge), st (listen) ce (fence), se (house), gn (sign), kn (knee), wr	here, sugar, friend because





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(wrap), mb (lamb)
se (cheese), ze (freeze), eer (cheer), ere (here), ti
(patient), ti (station)

al (half), augh (caught), ss (session), si (vision), ti
(scrumptious), ci, (delicious), -ious, -ion, -ian

Beyond Phase 5

With ELS, phonics teaching does not stop at the end of Year 1, but continues as children move through the school, with links being made between their GPC knowledge and spelling. They will revise all previously taught GPCs for reading and spelling as well as being provided with wider reading, spelling and writing learning opportunities.

