**Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS)** is our chosen Phonics programme. The aim of ELS is **‘Getting all children to read well, quickly’**. It teaches children to read by identifying the phonemes (the smallest unit of sound) and graphemes (the written version of the sound) within words and using these to read words.

Children begin learning Phonics at the very beginning of **Reception** and it is explicitly taught every day during a dedicated slot on the timetable. Children are given the knowledge and the skills to then apply this independently.

Children continue daily Phonics lessons in **Year 1** and further through the school to ensure all children become confident, fluent readers.

We begin by teaching the single letter sounds before moving to diagraphs **‘sh’** (two letters spelling one sound), trigraphs **‘igh’** (three letters spelling one sound) and quadgraphs **‘eigh’** (four letters spelling one sound).

We teach children to:

• **Decode** (read) by identifying each sound within a word and blending them together to read fluently

• **Encode** (write) by segmenting each sound to write words accurately.

ELS is designed on the principle that children should ‘**keep up**’ rather than ‘**catch up**’. Since interventions are delivered within the lesson by the teacher, any child who is struggling with the new knowledge can be immediately targeted with appropriate support. Where further support is required, 1:1 interventions are used where needed. These interventions are short, specific and effective.

**Supporting Reading at Home:**

* Children will take home blending books each week that are entirely decodable, this means that they *should* be able to read these books as they already know the code contained within the book.
* We only use pure sounds when decoding words (no ‘uh’ after the sound)
* We want children to practise reading their book 4 times across the week working on these skills:

**Decode** – sounding out and blending to read the word.

**Fluency** – reading words with less obvious decoding.

**Expression** – using intonation and expression to bring the text to life!

We must use pure sounds when we are pronouncing the sounds and supporting children in reading words. If we mispronounce these sounds, we will make reading harder for our children. Please watch the videos below for how to accurately pronounce these sounds.

More support for parents and carers can be found here:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/essential-letters-and-sounds/>

INSERT THE VIDEOS HERE FOR PRONUNCIATION

These are vimeo links, you can embed these into your site. They are on the resources tab of the Essential Letters and Sounds Website

<https://vimeo.com/753929025/5eaa45c0aa>

<https://vimeo.com/753931102/b9a2f8194f>

<https://vimeo.com/753933192/43104a30e0>