

# Help your child to read and write

At St Mark's we have started following Sounds Write.

# Why Sounds~Write?

Because every one of you has a child who can already listen and speak.

No-one has to send their child to school to learn what comes naturally.

What doesn't come naturally is **learning to read and write.**

# How does the English alphabet code work?

To become fluent readers and spellers children need to know:

1. Letters are used to spell individual sounds (one at a time, from left to right across the page).
2. Each sound may be spelled by one or more letters.

Cat    **sh**ip    **ni**ght    **w**ei**gh**t

# How does the English alphabet code work?

To become fluent readers and spellers children need to know:

**3. Sounds may be written in more than one way:**

play, rain, great, gate

ay, ai, ea, a\_e

**3. Many spellings represent more than one sound.**

the spelling /ea/ can represent the sounds:

Seat, head, break

# What skills do we need to become a reader?

What **skills** need to be practised and perfected to become a fluent reader?

- Segmenting
- Blending
- Phoneme manipulation

You also need **code knowledge**: how to spell the sounds in the language. We practice these skills daily in our phonics sessions.

# Here are some examples of lessons in phonics....

- ▶ [Word building](#)
- ▶ [Sound Swap](#)

# How is Sounds Write different to Letters and Sounds?

- ▶ We have previously used the Letters and Sounds programme for phonics.

Sounds Write is different because:

- ▶ in Reception we only learn single letter sounds (except for sh, ch, th, ng).
- ▶ When the children move to Year 1, they start to learn long vowels and alternative ways of making the same sound e.g.

Meet    beat    eve    be    key    piece    candy    protein

**They will learn alternative ways to make the same sound, largely at the same time.**

- ▶ Some of the sounds are said differently and treated as two sounds
- ▶ The lessons are scripted so the children will know exactly what's expected of them.

# Say the sounds correctly

When your children start to learn to read and write, we DO NOT use letter names. We just say the sounds very precisely. Here's an example of what we mean. But don't worry if you're not very sure, soon your child will be telling you how it's done!

[How to say the sounds](#)



# Home reading books

The children can change their reading book to go home every Tuesday and Friday. This is to be kept at home and read by the child alongside an adult each night. They will be given a named Reading Record to go with this. Please write any comments after reading with your child in their reading record.

At school, children will be doing weekly group guided reading as well as one-to-one reading when we can find time!

# Helping your child at home

If you would like to know more about how to support your child at home, you can do this free, short course.

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