

Essential Letters and Sounds

Dear Parents and Carers,

At St Clement's & St John's CE Infant School, part of the Coastal Learning Partnership, we are pleased to be introducing **Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS)** as our phonics programme for children in EYFS and Key Stage 1. ELS helps children become confident readers and writers through a clear and structured approach to phonics teaching.

Reading at Home

Regular reading at home makes a huge difference to your child's progress. We recommend reading with your child for **around 10 minutes each day**. Your child will bring home a **decodable reading book** that matches the sounds and words they have been learning in school. Reading the same book several times during the week helps develop confidence, accuracy and fluency.

Reading Books

- Reading books will be changed **weekly**.
- Books are carefully matched to your child's phonics learning so they can read them independently.
- Please return books on **Fridays** so they can be exchanged.
- Reading books remain school property. Parents will be charged for lost or damaged books.

Sharing Books

Your child will also bring home other books. These books are designed to be enjoyed together and may contain words your child cannot yet read on their own.

You might:

- Read the book to your child.
- Take turns reading.
- Talk about the pictures, characters and story.
- Encourage your child to join in with repeated words and phrases.

Assessment

As we move to ELS, you may notice changes to reading levels and book progression. This is because ELS follows its own carefully planned sequence, ensuring books match children's phonics knowledge and the stage being taught in class.

Working Together

Thank you for supporting your child's reading at home. Your encouragement and regular reading practice play an important role in helping them become confident, lifelong readers.

If you have any questions about ELS or supporting your child at home, please contact **Mrs Blane or Miss Rutherford**.

Kind regards,

Mrs B Blane

St Clement's & St John's CE Infant School
Coastal Learning Partnership