

## Essential Letters and Sounds

September 2025

Dear EYFS Parents and Carers,

As part of our continued commitment to high-quality phonics teaching, we have adopted the *Essential Letters and Sounds* (ELS) programme. ELS is based on the well-established *Letters and Sounds* framework and is designed to support children in making rapid progress towards becoming fluent, confident readers. As a result of this change, we will no longer be using **Bug Club** as our phonics scheme, and access to this platform has now been discontinued.

To support your child's reading development, we ask that the **eBook** provided by the school is read **at least three times throughout the week**. Just **10 minutes of reading per day** can make a significant difference in helping your child become an independent and enthusiastic reader.

You will have access to:

- A weekly **eBook version** of a text, based on sounds taught that week.
- A school **Library Book** (reading/sharing for pleasure).

Information on how to access the eBooks will be shared with you early in the autumn term.

eBooks will be allocated **once a week, on Fridays**, giving your child the opportunity to share the text several times. Repetition is key to building fluency and confidence—especially as children begin to understand that the same sounds can be represented in different ways.

Teachers will hear children read individually checking phonemes, harder to read and spell words and reading books.

Alongside these, children will also bring home a **“Library Book” for reading for pleasure**. These are not necessarily phonically decodable but are chosen by your child to enjoy at home, sharing the stories together. We do not expect the children in Reception to be able to read these books independently, but sharing books helps to foster a love of reading. Children will select these books from our KS1 Library **every Monday**.

**Please take every opportunity to record reading/sharing books in your child's Reading Record as this offers invaluable insight into how your child is progressing.**

If you have any questions or would like further information, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs York or Mrs Hobson.

**Kind regards,**  
EYFS Team

*Church of the Ascension Primary School*