

Essential Letters and Sounds

July 2025

Dear KS1 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 **decodable book** 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:

- An **eBook version** of the decodable text,
- A **"Share With Me" phonics book**, tailored to your child's current phonics level.

Information on how to access the eBooks will be shared with you during the first week of the autumn term.

Books will now be allocated/changed **once a week, on Fridays**, giving your child the opportunity to re-read each 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 in writing.

Reading books that your child can **decode independently** is a vital part of their learning journey. The books sent home are carefully matched to what your child has been taught in school, reinforcing their classroom learning. We only send home books for independent reading when we know your child can decode them successfully.

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—either read by you, with you, or alongside them. These books help foster a love of reading and can be a lovely way to end the day, such as a bedtime story. Children will select these books from our EYFS and KS1 Library **every Friday**.

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

Kind regards,
Senior Leadership Team

Church of the Ascension Primary School