

Phonics KS1

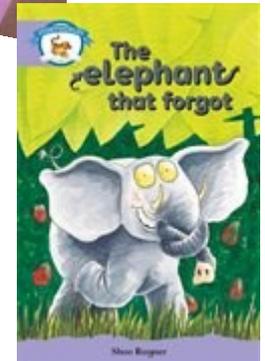
At St Leonard's, we use a synthetic phonics programme called **Letters and Sounds**. It is an approach to teaching phonics in which individual letters or letter sounds are blended to form groups of letters or sounds, and those groups are then blended to form complete words. Letters and Sounds is divided into six phases, with each phase building on the skills and knowledge of previous learning. There are no big leaps in learning. Children have time to practise and rapidly expand their ability to read and spell words. They are also taught to read and spell 'tricky words' – words with spellings that are unusual or that children have not yet been taught. These include the words 'to', 'was', 'said' and 'the' – you can't really break the sounds down for such words so it's better to just 'recognise' them. To support this learning we also use 'Phonics Play'. Children in Early Years follow the progression of letters used in Letters and Sounds but with the **Jolly Phonics** programme's actions.

Letters and Sounds



Reading Schemes KS1

We use a combination of reading schemes. These include **Songbirds**, **Pearson—bug club**, **Oxford Reading Tree** as well as **Project X**. These give a variety of fiction and non-fiction books to develop children's reading range. Children learn to read at different rates. Once they finish using reading schemes, they move onto using ordinary children's story books. To help us match children to the correct level of books we use Book Bands which colour code a large variety of reading scheme books as well as ordinary fiction and non-fiction books.. Children are also encouraged to borrow books from the School Library, children will have a Library lesson weekly and can change books then or after school.



KS2

Usually by the time pupils have reached KS2 they are more able to choose for themselves from a wide range of fiction and non-fiction literature. Many will continue to read from the range of scheme books available in school classroom libraries or from the mobile library that visits the school fortnightly; Children are also encouraged to borrow books from the School Library, children have a Library lesson weekly and can change books then or after school.



From year 4 pupils have access to Accelerated Reader which is a powerful tool for monitoring and managing independent reading practice. With Accelerated Reader teachers can create a reading programme to meet the needs of every student. Using information generated by the software, teachers can help students select books that are difficult enough to keep them challenged, but not too difficult to cause frustration. In addition, it helps teachers to monitor students' vocabulary growth, literacy skills development and reading skills taught through other reading schemes. It

- Develops a lifelong love of reading in our students
- Motivates students of all ages to read more, suitably challenging, books
- Raises literacy standards for students of all ages and abilities

We have found that Accelerated Reader has had a positive impact on both improved motivation and reading stamina.