How to help at home

We know children learn best when school and home work together. Parents can support their child by:

Reading Daily

- Share books together – Take time to read aloud with your child, explore different genres, and let them choose books that interest them. This helps build a love for reading.
- Spot sounds and letters – Point out sounds in words, look for letters in everyday places like signs or packaging, and play simple phonics games to strengthen early reading skills.
- Talk about stories – After reading, chat about the characters, what happened, and what might happen next. Ask questions like "Why do you think they did that?" or "What would you do?" to develop comprehension and critical thinking.

Celebrate effort & progress!

- Focus on effort, not just results – Praise your child for trying, even if they don't get it right straight away.
- Notice small wins – Recognise when they remember a sound, blend a word, or improve from yesterday. These little steps lead to big progress.
- Make it positive and fun – Use stickers, high-fives, or a special "reading star" chart to show how proud you are of their learning journey.
- Why it matters – Encouragement helps children feel motivated and enjoy phonics, which makes them more likely to keep practising.

Review the cards sent home each week

Spend a few minutes each day looking at the high frequency word sheets together. Spend a few minutes looking at the words - "can you spot the tricky words?"
Say the sound clearly and encourage your child to repeat it.

- Link sounds to words – When you spot the sound in a book or on a sign, point it out and say, "Look, that's the same sound as on your card!" This helps children connect sounds to real reading.
- Little and often – Short, regular practice sessions work best. Just 5 minutes a day can make a big difference.

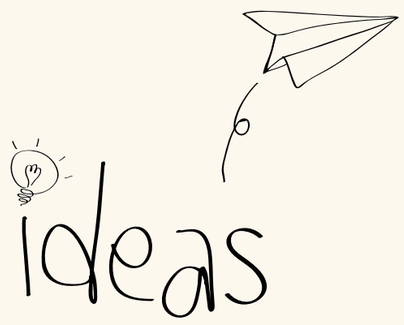
Using pure sounds

- Say the sound, not the letter name – For example, say "t" instead of "tee" and avoid adding extra sounds like "tuh." This helps children blend sounds smoothly when reading.
- Keep it short and clear – Pure sounds are quick and crisp. This makes it easier for children to hear the correct sound and use it in words.
- Why it matters – Using pure sounds prevents confusion and supports accurate blending, which is key for early reading success.

Play listening games

Explore initial sounds.

- Listening games – Try fun activities like "Simon Says" or "I Spy" using sounds instead of objects. For example, "I spy , ' ' something that starts with 's'."
- Find words with the same initial sound – Pick a sound and see how many words you can think of that start with it. You can do this while reading, during car rides, or even at the dinner table.



Twinkl phonics

- Parent Information Sheets – These explain what your child is learning in phonics each week and give practical ideas for supporting them at home.
- Sound Mats – A handy reference showing all the sounds your child is working on. Keep it somewhere visible (like the fridge or homework area) so you can use it during reading and writing activities.
- Why they help – These resources make it easier for parents to understand phonics and reinforce learning in a fun, consistent way.