



Your child's reading journey

Year 1

Your child is on their journey to becoming a skilled reader. In Reception, they learned all of the single letter sounds, the consonant digraphs and some vowel digraphs (digraph: two letters, one sound) and trigraphs (three letters, one sound).

In Year 1, children will learn the remaining graphemes in the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* programme. These are alternative spellings for the sounds that they already know. The children will become more fluent readers and will read increasingly challenging texts.

All for the love of reading

- Teaching children the skills of reading will increase their will to read.
- Children who love reading, choose to read.
- Reading develops children's vocabulary, understanding of the world and empathy.
- A love of reading is the biggest indicator of future academic success! To develop a love of reading, children must have the skills to read, which is why we teach them using phonics.





What is my child taught in school?

- In Year 1, children are taught a 30-minute phonics lesson every day.
- They will also have an opportunity to apply their phonic knowledge to reading a book (matched to their level), at least three times a week.
- Your child may need daily additional practice to help secure their learning.

What can I do to support my child at home?

- Listen to your child practise reading their phonics book to develop their fluency.
- Read to your child daily – choose books that you can enjoy together. The love of reading books we send home are a great place to start.
- Ask your child's teacher if you need extra help with supporting your child – that's what we're here for!

What if my child comes across a word that they can't read straight away?

- If your child is unsure of a word, ask them to sound it out and then blend.
- Ask them if they can spot any digraphs (two letters, one sound) or trigraphs (three letters, one sound) before decoding the word.
- Never ask your child to guess words using the pictures or initial sounds as clues. If they are really struggling just read the word to them.

My child is reading the books fluently at home, do they need a more challenging book?










- No! We want children to be able to read fluently and not find reading a chore.
- Once they can read fluently, they can focus on adding expression when reading aloud and showing their understanding of the book. Use the prompts on the back page of the books to check your child's understanding.









Find further resources and information for parents and carers at:
www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents

How to say the Phase 5 sounds

At Phase 5, children learn alternative graphemes for sounds introduced in Phases 2 and 3.





Sounds introduced in Phase 2




Grapheme and mnemonic	Pronunciation phrase	Phase 5 Graphemes
	Show your teeth and let the s hiss out ssssss ssssss	c se ce st sc
	Open your lips a bit; put your tongue behind your teeth and make the nnnnn sound nnnnn	kn gn
	Put your lips together and make the mmmmm sound mmmmm	mb
	Open your mouth into a little smile; make your tongue flat and move it up towards the top of your mouth to say c c c	ch
	Show me your teeth to make a rrrr sound rrrrr	wr
	Open your lips a little; put your teeth on your bottom lip and push the air out to make the sound ffff fffff	ph
	Open your mouth a little; put your tongue up to the top of your mouth, behind your teeth, and press tttt tttt	le al
	Pucker your lips and show your teeth; use your tongue as you say j j j	g dge ge
	Put your teeth against your bottom lip and make a buzzing sound vvvv vvvv	ve




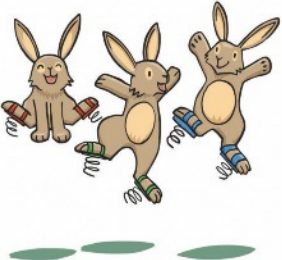
Grapheme and mnemonic	Pronunciation phrase	Phase 5 Graphemes
	Pucker your lips and keep them small as you say w w w	wh
	Show me your teeth and buzz the z sound zzzzz zzzzz	se ze
	Pucker your lips and show your teeth; use your tongue as you say ch ch ch	tch ture*
	Show me your teeth and push the air out shshshshshsh	ch ti ssi si ci
	Open your mouth wide and say e e e	ea
	Pull your lips back and make the i sound at the back of your mouth iii	y
	Make your mouth into a round shape and say o o o	a
	Open your mouth wide and say u u u	o-e o ou



*Note that the pronunciation of 'ture' has a slight schwa sound at the end.

Sounds introduced in Phase 3

Grapheme	Catchphrase	Pronunciation phrase	Phase 5 Graphemes
ai	 <p>tail in the rain</p>	Open your mouth wide and say ai ai ai	ay a a-e eigh aigh ey ea
ee	 <p>sheep in a jeep</p>	Smile with your lips apart and say ee ee ee	ea e e-e ie y ey
igh	 <p>a light in the night</p>	Open your mouth in a relaxed way and say igh igh igh	ie i i-e y
oa	 <p>soap that goat</p>	Make an 'o' with your mouth and say oa oa oa	o o-e ou oe ow

Grapheme	Catchphrase	Pronunciation phrase	Phase 5 Graphemes
oo	 zoom to the moon	Open your mouth just a bit, put your hand on your tummy, pull your tummy in and say oo oo oo	ue u-e ew ou ui
yoo		Pucker your lips and keep them small as you say yoo yoo yoo	ue u u-e ew
oo	 hook a book	Open your mouth just a bit, put your hand on your tummy, pull your tummy in and say oo oo oo	u* oul
ar	 march in the dark	Open your mouth wide, push your tongue down and say ar ar	a* al*

Grapheme	Catchphrase	Pronunciation phrase	Phase 5 Graphemes
or	 <p>born with a horn</p>	Make an 'o' with your mouth, push your tongue down and say or or or	aw au aur oor al a oar ore
ur	 <p>curl the fur</p>	Open your mouth in a relaxed way, push your tongue down and say ur ur ur	er ir or
ow	 <p>wow owl</p>	Open your mouth wide then move your lips together as you say ow ow ow	ou
oi	 <p>boing boing</p>	Make an 'o' with your mouth then move your lips out as you say oi oi oi	oy

Grapheme	Catchphrase	Pronunciation phrase	Phase 5 Graphemes
ear	 <p>get near to hear</p>	Smile with your lips apart, push your tongue to your teeth as you say ear ear ear	ere ear
air	 <p>chair in the air</p>	Open your mouth wide, push your tongue down as you say air air air	are ere ear
zh		Pucker your lips and show your teeth; push the air over your tongue as you say zh zh	su si

*depending on regional accent

Phase 5 tricky words: Year 1

Information for parents and carers

'Tricky words' are words that cannot easily be decoded ('sounded out' and read). This is because some of the sounds in the words are spelled in an unusual way. It is important for children to be able to read these words as they are among the most common words in English.

The table shows the tricky words that your child will learn in Phase 5 in Year 1 and explains why each word is tricky. Tricky words taught in Reception that remain tricky in Year 1 are also shown. Children will practise the tricky words in school until they can read them automatically. They will also practise reading the tricky words in the decodable books that they bring home.

Taught in Year 1 Autumn term		
Tricky word	Tricky part	Why is it tricky?
their	eir	The 'eir' makes the sound air . <i>This is a rare spelling for this sound.</i>
people	eo le	The 'eo' makes the sound ee* . Your child has not yet learned the digraph 'le'. <i>*This is a rare spelling for this sound.</i>
oh	oh	The 'oh' makes the sound oa . <i>This is a rare spelling for this sound.</i>
your	our	Your child has not yet learned the trigraph 'our'. Here, it makes the sound or .
Mr Mrs Miss	whole word	These are abbreviations in common use as words.
ask*	a	The 'a' makes the sound ar . Learning so far: For 'a', your child has learned the sound a as in 'cat'.
could would should	oul	Your child has not yet learned the trigraph 'oul', which makes the sound oo (as in 'book').
our	our	The trigraph 'our' makes the sound ow followed by the schwa sound. <i>This is a rare spelling for this sound.</i>
house mouse	se	Your child has not yet learned the digraph 'se'. Here, it makes the sound s .
water	a	The 'a' makes the sound or . Learning so far: For 'a', your child has learned the sound a as in 'cat'.
want	a	The 'a' makes the sound o . Learning so far: For 'a', your child has learned the sound a as in 'cat'.

*Depending on regional pronunciations, not all children will be taught the word 'ask' as a tricky word.

Taught in Year 1 Spring term		
Tricky word	Tricky part(s)	Why is it tricky?
any many	a	The 'a' makes the sound e . This is a rare spelling for this sound. Learning so far: For the grapheme 'a', your child has learned the sounds a as in 'cat' and ai as in 'paper'.
again*	ai	The digraph 'ai' makes the sound e . This is a rare spelling for this sound. Learning so far: For 'ai', your child has learned the sound ai as in 'rain'.
who	wh o	The digraph 'wh' makes the sound h and the 'o' makes the sound oo (as in 'food'). These are rare spellings for these sounds. Learning so far: For 'wh', your child has learned the sound w as in 'when'.
whole	wh o-e	The digraph 'wh' makes the sound h *. Your child has not yet learned the split digraph 'o-e', which makes the sound oa . This is a rare spelling for this sound. Learning so far: For 'wh', your child has learned the sound w as in 'when'.
where	ere	Your child has not yet learned the trigraph 'ere'. Here, it makes the sound air .
two	wo	The digraph 'wo' makes the sound oo (as in 'food'). This is a rare spelling for this sound.
school	ch	The digraph 'ch' makes the sound c . Learning so far: For the grapheme 'ch', your child has learned the sound ch as in 'chip'.
call	a	The 'a' makes the sound or . Learning so far: For the grapheme 'a', your child has learned the sounds a as in 'cat' and ai as in 'paper'. Your child will learn that 'a' can make the sound or later in the Spring term.
different*	er	The digraph 'er' makes the sound r (with no schwa sound before it). Learning so far: For the digraph 'er', your child has learned the sound ur as in 'bigger'.
thought	ough	The 'ough' makes the sound or . This is a rare spelling for this sound.
through	ough	The 'ough' makes the sound oo (as in 'food'). This is a rare spelling for this sound.
friend	ie	The digraph 'ie' makes the sound e . This is a rare spelling for this sound. Learning so far: For the digraph 'ie', your child has learned the sounds igh as in 'pie' and ee as in 'shield'.
work	or	The digraph 'or' makes the sound ur . Learning so far: For 'or', your child has learned the sound or as in 'sort'.
once	o	The 'o' makes the sounds w-u . This is a rare spelling for this sound.
laugh	au gh	The word 'laugh' has two tricky parts: the digraph 'au' makes the sound ar * (depending on regional pronunciation) and the digraph 'gh' makes the sound f . These are rare spellings for these sounds.
because	au	The digraph 'au' makes the sound o . This is a rare spelling for this sound.
eye	eye	The trigraph 'eye' makes the sound igh . This is a rare spelling for this sound.

*Depending on regional pronunciations, not all children will be taught the words 'again' and 'different' as tricky words.

Taught in Year 1 Summer term		
Tricky word	Tricky part	Why is it tricky?
busy	u	The 'u' makes the sound i . Learning so far: For 'u', your child has learned the sounds u as in 'cup', oo as in 'put' and yoo as in 'unicorn'.
beautiful	eau	The trigraph 'eau' makes the sound yoo . This is a rare spelling for this sound.
pretty	e	The 'e' makes the sound i . This is a rare spelling for this sound in the middle of a word. Learning so far: For 'e', your child has learned the sound e as in 'egg' and ee as in 'be'.
hour	h our	The word 'hour' has two tricky parts: the 'h' is not pronounced and the trigraph 'our' makes the sound ow followed by the schwa sound. These are rare spellings for these sounds.
move improve	o	The grapheme 'o' makes the sound oo (as in 'food'). This is a rare spelling for this sound. Learning so far: For 'o', your child has learned the sound o as in 'dog' and oa as in 'go'.
parents	a	The 'a' makes the sound air . This is a rare spelling for this sound. Learning so far: For the grapheme 'a', your child has learned the sounds a as in 'cat', ai as in 'paper' and ar as in 'father'.
shoe	oe	The digraph 'oe' makes the sound oo (as in 'food'). This is a rare spelling for this sound.

Tricky words taught in Reception

In Year 1, your child will develop the phonic knowledge they need to decode many of the tricky words taught in Reception. However, the words below need to be reviewed and practised as tricky words until your child can read them automatically.

Taught in Phase 4 (Reception Summer term)		
Phase 4 tricky word	Tricky part(s)	Why is it tricky?
said	ai	The 'ai' makes the sound e . <i>This is a rare spelling for this sound.</i>
do	o	The 'o' makes the sound oo (as in 'food'). <i>This is a rare spelling for this sound.</i>
were	ere	The trigraph 'ere' makes the sound ur . <i>This is a rare spelling for this sound.</i>
says	ay	The 'ay' makes the sound e . <i>This is a rare spelling for this sound.</i>
one	whole word	The 'o' makes the sounds w-u . <i>This is a rare spelling.</i>
today	o	The 'o' makes the sound oo (as in 'food') <i>This is a rare spelling for this sound.</i>

Taught in Phase 3 (Reception Spring term)		
Phase 3 tricky word	Tricky part(s)	Why is it tricky?
are	whole word	This is a rare spelling of the sound ar .
sure	whole word	The 's' makes the sound sh . The 'ure' makes two sounds (yoo plus the schwa sound). <i>These are rare spellings for these sounds.</i>
pure	ure	The 'ure' makes two sounds (yoo plus the schwa sound). <i>This is a rare spelling for these sounds.</i>

Taught in Phase 2 (Reception Autumn term)		
Phase 2 tricky word	Tricky part(s)	Why is it tricky?
the	e	It is rare for 'e' to make the schwa sound at the end of a word.
to into	o	The 'o' makes the sound oo (as in 'food') <i>This is a rare spelling for this sound.</i>
of	f	The 'f' makes the sound v . <i>This is a rare spelling for this sound.</i>

Terminology

Phoneme: The smallest unit of sound that can be identified in words. We also use the term 'sound' but your child may use the word 'phoneme'. There are 44 phonemes or sounds in the English language.

Grapheme: A letter or group of letters used to represent a phoneme in writing. The way graphemes are used to represent phonemes in our written language is known as the alphabetic code.

Decode: To break down ('sound out') a written word into sounds then blend the sounds together to read the word.

Digraph: A grapheme made of two letters that represent one sound. An example is the 'sh' in 'shop'. Your child may use the mantra 'two letters, one sound' when they spot a digraph.

Schwa: This is the name for the most common sound in English. It is the unstressed sound that we find in many words and can be spelled in many ways. It makes an 'uh' sound, which varies according to accent. Examples include: the, better, carrot, balloon.

Split digraph: A vowel digraph that is split by a consonant. Examples include 'a-e' as in 'cake' (**ai** sound); 'e-e' as in 'athlete' (**ee** sound), 'i-e' as in 'time' (**igh** sound), 'o-e' as in 'bone' (**oa** sound) and 'u-e' as in 'tube' (**yoo** sound).

Trigraph: A grapheme made of three letters to represent one sound. An example is the 'igh' in 'sight'. Your child may use the mantra 'three letters, one sound' when they spot a trigraph.

Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised 2021: Programme progression

Reception and Year 1 overviews

This programme overview shows the progression of GPCs and tricky words that we teach term-by-term. The progression has been organised so that children are taught from the simple to more complex GPCs, as well as taking into account the frequency of their occurrence in the most commonly encountered words. All the graphemes taught are practised in words, sentences, and later on, in fully decodable books. Children review and revise GPCs and words, daily, weekly and across terms and years, in order to move this knowledge into their long-term memory.

Children need to learn to read as quickly as reasonably possible, so they can move from learning to read, to reading to learn, giving them access to the treasure house of reading. Our expectations of progression are aspirational yet achievable if schools maintain pace, practice and participation by all children. Children who are not keeping up with their peers should be given additional practice immediately through keep-up sessions.

Reception

Autumn 1 Phase 2 graphemes	New tricky words
s a t p i n m d g o c k c k e u r h b f l	is I the

Autumn 2 Phase 2 graphemes	New tricky words
ff ll ss j v w x y z zz qu ch sh th ng nk • words with –s /s/ added at the end (hats sits) • words ending in s /z/ (his) and with –s /z/ added at the end (bags sings)	put* pull* full* as and has his her go no to into she push* he of we me be

*The tricky words 'put', 'pull', 'full' and 'push' may not be tricky in some regional pronunciations; in which case, they should not be treated as such.

Spring 1 Phase 3 graphemes	New tricky words
ai ee igh oa oo oo ar or ur ow oi ear air er • words with double letters • longer words	was you they my by all are sure pure

Spring 2 Phase 3 graphemes	No new tricky words
Review Phase 3 • words with double letters, longer words, words with two or more digraphs, words ending in –ing, compound words • words with s /z/ in the middle • words with –s /s/ /z/ at the end • words with –es /z/ at the end	Review all taught so far

Summer 1 Phase 4	New tricky words
Short vowels with adjacent consonants • CVCC CCVC CCVCC CCCVC CCCVCC • longer words and compound words • words ending in suffixes: –ing, –ed /t/, –ed /id/ /ed/, –est	said so have like some come love do were here little says there when what one out today

Summer 2 Phase 4 graphemes	No new tricky words
Phase 3 long vowel graphemes with adjacent consonants • CVCC CCVC CCCVC CCV CCVCC • words ending in suffixes: –ing, –ed /t/, –ed /id/ /ed/, –ed /d/ –er, –est • longer words	Review all taught so far

Year 1

Autumn 1	Review tricky words Phases 2–4
Review Phase 3 and 4 Phase 5 /ai/ ay play /ow/ ou cloud /oi/ oy toy /ea/ ea each	Phases 2–4: the put* pull* full* push* to into I no go of he she we me be was you they all are my by sure pure said have like so do some come love were there little one when out what says here today

*The tricky words 'put', 'pull', 'full' and 'push' may not be tricky in some regional pronunciations; in which case, they should not be treated as such.

Autumn 2 Phase 5 graphemes	New tricky words
/ur/ ir bird /igh/ ie pie /oo/ /yoo/ ue blue rescue /yoo/ u unicorn /oa/ o go /igh/ i tiger /ai/ a paper /ee/ e he /ai/ a-e shake /igh/ i-e time /oa/ o-e home /oo/ /yoo/ u-e rude cute /ee/ e-e these /oo/ /yoo/ ew chew new /ee/ ie shield /or/ aw claw	their people oh your Mr Mrs Ms ask* could would should our house mouse water want

*The tricky word 'ask' may not be tricky in some regional pronunciations; in which case, it should not be treated as such.

Spring 1 Phase 5 graphemes	New tricky words
/ee/ y funny /e/ ea head /w/ wh wheel /oa/ oe ou toe shoulder /igh/ y fly /oa/ ow snow /j/ g giant /f/ ph phone /l/ le al apple metal /s/ c ice /v/ ve give /u/ o-e o ou some mother young /z/ se cheese /s/ se ce mouse fence /ee/ ey donkey /oo/ ui ou fruit soup	any many again who whole where two school call different thought through friend work

Spring 2 Phase 5 graphemes	New tricky words
/ur/ or word /oo/ u owl awful could /air/ are share /or/ au aur oor al author dinosaur floor walk /ch/ tch ture match adventure /ar/ al a half* father* /or/ a water schwa in longer words: different /o/ a want /air/ ear ere bear there /ur/ ear learn /r/ wr wrist /s/ st sc whistle science /c/ ch school /sh/ ch chef /z/ ze freeze schwa at the end of words: actor	once laugh because eye

*The tricky words 'half' and 'father' may not be pronounced as this in some regional pronunciations; in which case, they should not be treated as such.

Summer 1: Phonics screening check review – no new GPCs or tricky words

Summer 2 Phase 5 graphemes	New tricky words
/ai/ eigh aigh ey ea eight straight grey break /n/ kn gn knee gnaw /m/ mb thumb /ear/ ere eer here deer /zh/ su si treasure vision /j/ dge bridge /i/ y crystal /j/ ge large /sh/ ti ssi si ci potion mission mansion delicious /or/ augh our oar ore daughter pour oar more	busy beautiful pretty hour move improve parents shoe




























How to write capital letters

Use this document to ensure correct letter formation when you are teaching children to form capital letters.

Letter	Capital letter formation phrase
A	From the top, diagonally down to the left, up to the top, diagonally down to the right. Lift up and across.
B	From the top, down, back to the top. Round to the middle, round to the bottom.
C	From the top, curl around to the left to sit on the line.
D	From the top, down, back to the top. Curve right, down to the bottom.
E	From the top, down, back to the top. Across, back. Lift up and across the middle. Lift up and across the bottom line.
F	From the top, down, back to the top. Across, back. Lift up and across the middle.
G	From the top, curl around to the line, carry on up, then straight down. Lift up and across.
H	From the top and down. Space. From the top and down. Lift up and join the lines across the middle.
I	From the top to the bottom and stop.
J	From the top, all the way down, then short curl to the left.
K	From the top, down, up to the middle. Diagonally up, back and diagonally down to the line.
L	From the top, down and across the line.
M	From the top, down, back to the top. Diagonally down, diagonally up. Straight down to the line.
N	From the top, down, back to the top. Diagonally down, then straight up to the top.
O	From the top – all around the o.
P	From the top, down then back up. Curve right to halfway down.
Q	From the top – all around the o. Lift off. Short line diagonally down.
R	From the top, down, then back up. Curve right to halfway down. Diagonally down to the line.
S	From the top, under the snake's chin, slide down and round its tail.
T	From the top, down and stop. Lift up and from the left, make a line across the top.
U	From the top, down and curve right, then straight up to the top.
V	From the top diagonally right to the bottom, then diagonally up to the top.
W	From the top diagonally right to the bottom, diagonally up to the top, diagonally down to the line, then diagonally up again.
X	From the top, diagonally right to the bottom. Space. Start at the top, then diagonally left to the bottom.
Y	From the top diagonally right to the middle. Space. From the top diagonally left to the middle. Straight down to the bottom.
Z	From the top go across, diagonally down to the left and across the bottom.














Grow the code grapheme mat

Phase 2, 3 and 5

 s ss c se ce st sc	 t tt	 p pp	 n nn kn gn	 m mm mb	 d dd	 g gg	 c k ck cc ch	 r rr wr	 h
 b bb	 f ff ph	 l ll le al	 j g dge ge	 v vv ve	 w wh	 x	 y	 z zz s se ze	 qu
 ch tch ture	 sh ch ti ssi si ci	 th	 ng	 nk	 a	 e ea	 i y	 o a	 u o-e ou

Grow the code grapheme mat























Phase 2, 3 and 5

 ai ay a a-e eigh aigh ey ea	 ee ea e e-e ie y ey	 igh ie i i-e y	 oa o o-e ou oe ow	 oo ue u-e ew ou ui	yoo ue u u-e ew	 oo u* oul	 ar a* al*
 or aw au aur oor al a oar ore	 ur er ir or	 ow ou	 oi oy	 ear ere eer	 air are ere ear	zh su si	

*depending on regional accent

Grapheme mat

Phase 2

S  s	T  t	P  p	N  n	M  m
D  d	G  g	C  c	K  k	ck  ck
R  r	H  h	B  b	F  f	L  l
J  j	V  v	W  w	X  x	Y  y
Z  z	qu  qu	th  th	sh  sh	ch  ch
ng  ng	nk  nk			
A  a	E  e	I  i	O  o	U  u