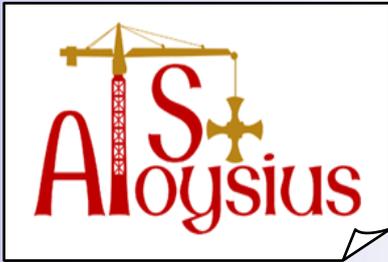
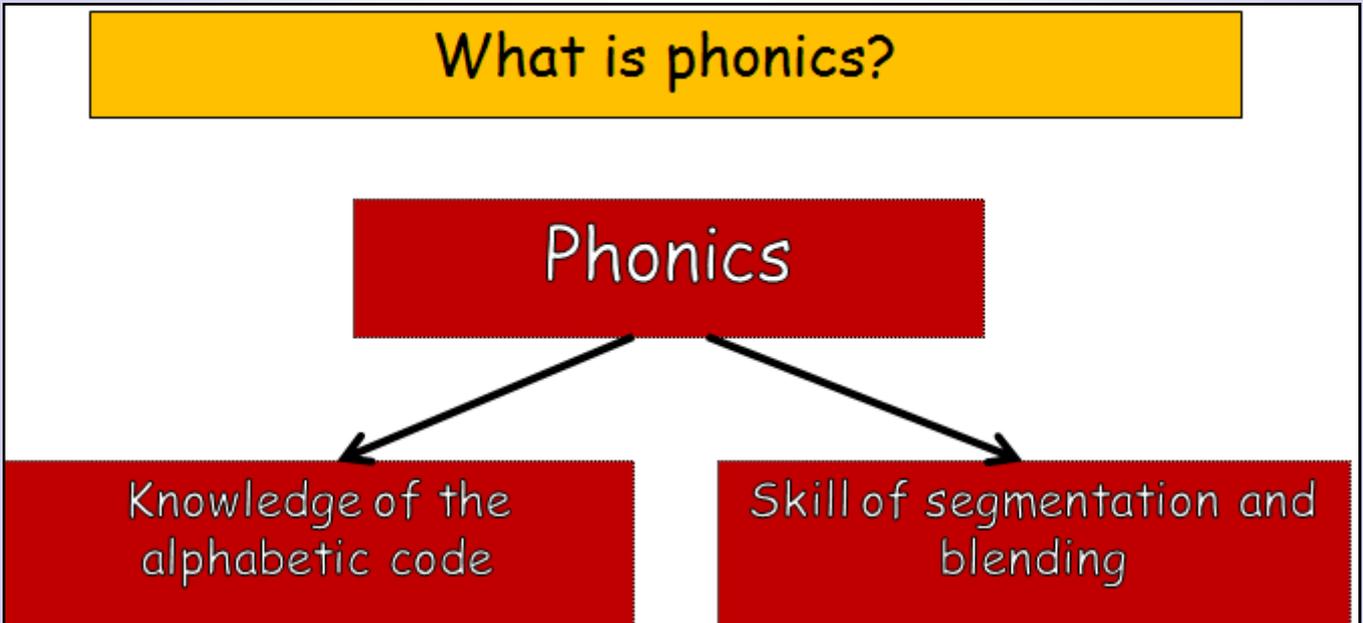


# Early Years Reading



ELG 09: Children read and understand simple sentences. They use phonic knowledge to decode regular words and read them aloud accurately. They also read some common irregular words. They demonstrate understanding when talking with others about what they have read.

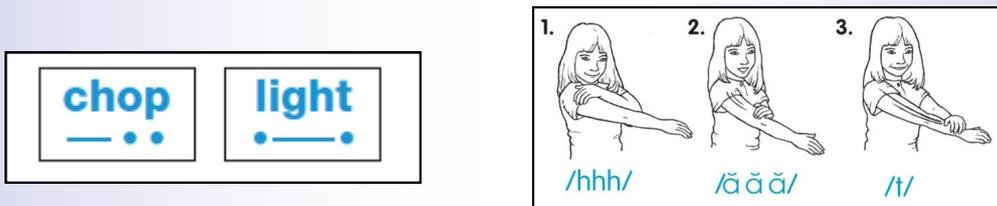
At St Aloysius, we follow the Letters and Sounds programme for the delivery of Phonics. Children receive a daily phonics session enabling them to become confident and fluent readers.



Phonics provides children with an awareness not just of the 26 letters of the alphabet but of the 42 letter sounds that make up our alphabetic code. Children will soon start using this knowledge to segment for spelling

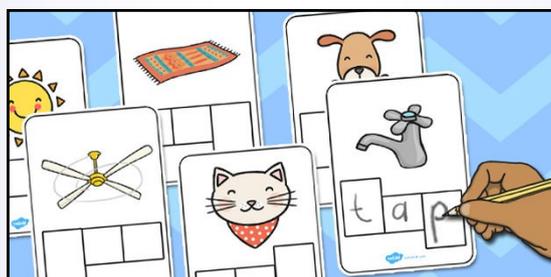
**Blending:** Knowledge of merging individual letter sounds (phonemes) together to say a word

**Note:** to read children must recognise each grapheme, not merely the letter. Children then blend the phonemes together to make a word.



**Segmentation:** Hear and say individual phonemes within a word

**Note:** in order to spell children need to segment a word into its phoneme sounds and then select a grapheme to represent each phoneme.



## What is a phoneme?



The smallest unit of *sound in a word*. i.e. the **c** in **c-a-t** (cat)  
Phonemes are represented by graphemes.  
A phoneme can be represented in more than one way  
**s** (sun), **se** (mouse), **c** (city), **sc** or **ce** (science)

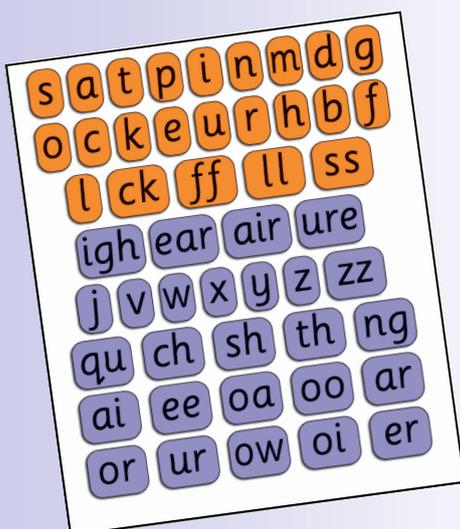
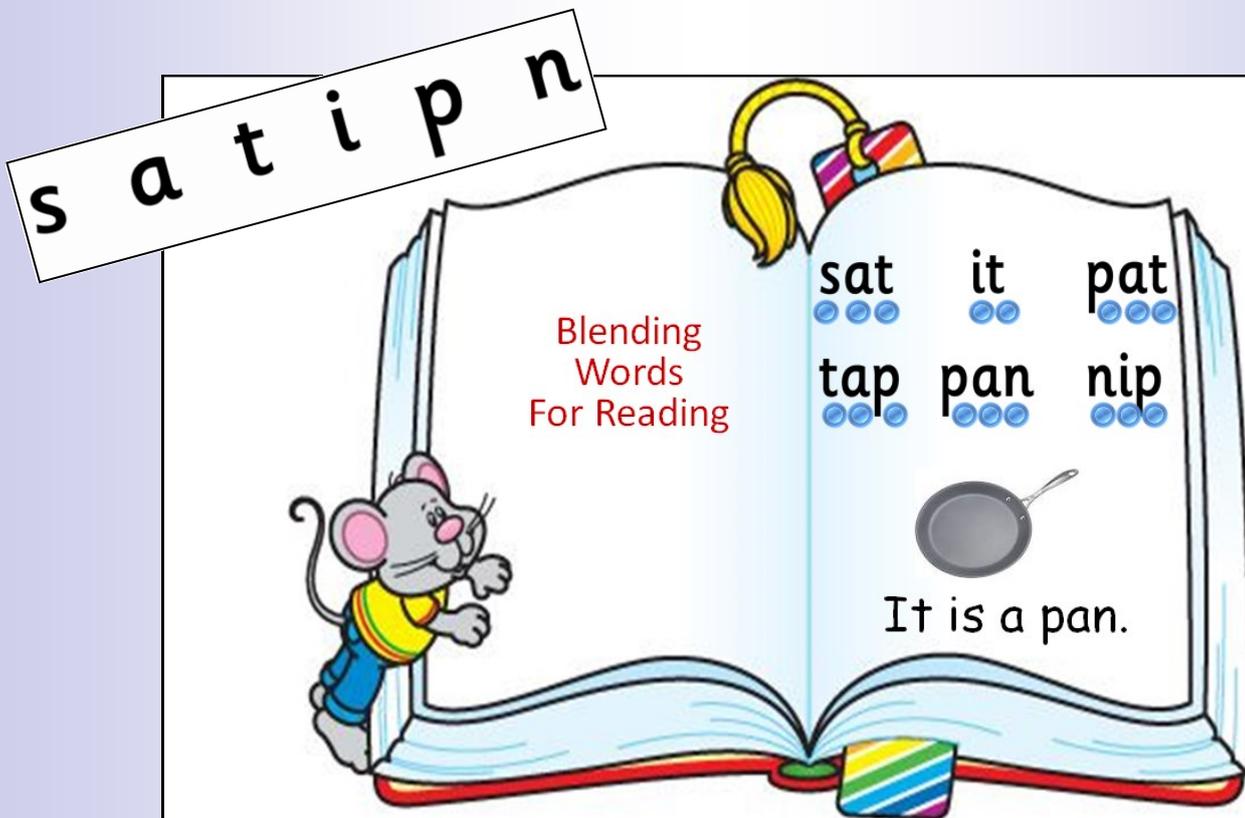
## What is a grapheme?



A grapheme is a letter or letters representing a phoneme  
**It is how the phoneme is written down.**  
A grapheme may consist of one or more letters: 'c' 'sh' 'igh'  
The same grapheme may represent more than one phoneme: she, set

## What is a digraph?

When two letters represent one phoneme, it is called a digraph: 'sh' 'th' 'ee' 'ng' 'ch' .... A split digraph refers to occasions when a separate phoneme splits two letters in the digraph: **cake**. When three letters represent one phoneme, it is called a trigraph: 'igh' 'air' 'ear'



After learning to recognise just a few graphemes 's, a, t, i, p, n' and apply the correct sound (phoneme) to them, children are able to 'press' their sound buttons, blending to read whole words.

Of course this becomes more complex as the children come across ever more difficult words and their knowledge of the alphabetic code increases, yet the basic principles behind phonics remain the same.