

At Albert Village Primary School, we teach phonics using a linguistic program called sounds-write. This program is validated by the DFE. The sounds-write approach is phonographic, which is to say that we start with what all children acquire naturally, the sounds of their own language and that we teach that letters and combinations of letters are the ways that we represent these sounds when we write.

Our children are taught four key concepts

1. Letters are symbols that represent sounds
2. Each sound may be represented by a 1,2,3, or 4 letter spelling (cat, rain, night, dough)
3. Sounds may be spelled in more than one way (play, rain, great, gate)
4. Many spellings represent more than one sound (head, beat, steak)

We want our children to become proficient in three key skills

1. **Blending** sounds to read words (c/a/t = cat)
2. **Segmenting** (recognising the individual sounds in words to read and spell)
3. **Phoneme manipulation** (to understand that one sound can be replaced by another. This skill supports testing out alternative spellings.

Reception

Children in Reception begin with the initial code. They learn to read and spell simple CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) such as sat, bag, hop. This progresses to reading and writing words with four and five sounds such as twist and drink.

At the end of the initial, code they will learn that some sounds are represented by two or even three letters such as ch in chip , sh in shop and tch in catch.

They will also learn that some sounds can be spelled in more than one way, for example, c in cat and k in kit.

Year one onwards

Once the children have mastered the initial code they will move onto the extended code. They will continue to practise and develop the key skills, whilst learning that sounds can be represented in different ways, for example, rain, play, gate, break.

Reading books

Children who are beginning their reading journey will be given a phonetically decodable books, matched to their reading level. This enables them to practise and master the skills of segmenting and blending. We use Sounds-write decodable books, Dandelion launchers and Dandelion readers.