



## Sounds-Write – A Guide for Parents

Being able to read is the most important skill children learn during their early schooling and has far-reaching implications for life-long learning, confidence and well-being. High quality phonic teaching is the prime means by which we teach children how to read and spell words.

At Southwick School, we follow the ‘Sounds-Write’ phonics programme and this guide is designed to help you, as parents or carers, to understand ‘Sounds-Write’ so that you can support your child at home.

The key knowledge and skills that the ‘Sounds-Write’ programme develops are;

### Conceptual Knowledge

1. Letters are symbols (spellings) that represent sounds.  
2. A sound may be spelled by 1, 2, 3 or 4 letters.  

|            |               |              |              |
|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| <u>dog</u> | <u>street</u> | <u>night</u> | <u>dough</u> |
|------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
3. The same sound can be spelled in more than one way.  

|                                 |              |             |             |
|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| One sound – different spellings |              |             |             |
| <u>rain</u>                     | <u>break</u> | <u>gate</u> | <u>stay</u> |
4. Many spellings can represent more than one sound.  

|                                 |             |              |
|---------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| One spelling – different sounds |             |              |
| <u>head</u>                     | <u>seat</u> | <u>break</u> |

## Skills

1. Blending – the ability to push sounds together to build words.

Example: /k/ /a/ /t/ → cat

2. Segmenting – the ability to pull apart the individual sounds in words.

Example: pig → /p/ /i/ /g/

3. Phoneme manipulation – the ability to insert sounds into and delete sounds out of words.

This skill is necessary to test out alternatives for spellings that represent more than one sound.

Ex: spelling < o >.

Is it /o/ as in hot, /oe/ as in no, or /u/ as in son?

### 'Sounds-Write' progression and pace

| Year      | Term            | Content   |
|-----------|-----------------|---|
| Reception | autumn          | Initial Code Units 1-7  |
|           | spring          | Initial Code Units 8-11   |
|           | summer          | Consolidation of Initial Code 8-11<br><br>Introduction of Extended code – 2 or 3 sounds   |
| 1         | autumn          | Consolidation of Initial Code 9-11<br><br>Extended code – start at Unit 1 again   |
|           | spring & summer | Continue Extended code<br><br>At /oe/ introduce Polysyllabic level lessons <i>alongside</i>   |
| 2         | All terms       | Continue Extended code from Y1 end point, which is usually at around Unit 25 (units will consolidate known spellings and include <i>more spellings</i> )<br><br>Continue Polysyllabic level lessons |

The extended code is continued into year 3 and children who have not acquired sufficient phonic knowledge to read fluently and independently are supported with this.

| INITIAL CODE |  |
|--------------|--|
| Unit         | Content  |
| 1            | Introduce the spellings a i m s t  |
| 2            | Introduce the spellings n o p  |
| 3            | Introduce the spellings b c g h  |
| 4            | Introduce the spellings d e f v  |
| 5            | Introduce the spellings k l r u  |
| 6            | Introduce the spellings j w z  |
| 7            | Introduce the spellings x y and two-letter spellings (digraphs) ff ll ss zz              |
| 8            | Words with sound structure VCC and CVCC  |
| 9            | Words with sound structure CCVC  |
| 10           | Words with structure CCCVC, CCVCC and CVCCC  |
| 11           | Introduce the two-letter spellings (digraphs) ch sh th ck ng wh, and <q> <u> for /k/ /w/ |

N.B C = consonant and V = vowel CCVC for example word be a word like ‘stop’ or ‘crab’.

‘Sounds-Write’ – A guide for parents in Reception leaflet can also be found here;  
[www.southwick.wilts.sch.uk/pdf/Sounds-WriteLeafletYR Parents.pdf](http://www.southwick.wilts.sch.uk/pdf/Sounds-WriteLeafletYR Parents.pdf)

| EXTENDED CODE |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1             | First spellings of sound /ae/ - ai ay ea a-e  |
| 2             | First spellings of sound /ee/ - ee ea y e   |
| 3             | Spelling <ea> representing /ae/ & /ee/  |
| 4             | First spellings of sound /oe/ - o oa ow oe o-e  |
| 5             | Spelling <o> representing /o/ & /oe/  |
| 6             | First spellings of sound /er/ - er ir or ur   |
| 7             | First spellings of sound /e/ - e ea ai  |
| 8             | First spellings of sound /ow/ - ou ow   |
| 9             | Spelling <ow> representing /oe/ & /ow/  |
| 10            | First spellings of sound <sub>m/oo/n</sub> - oo ew ue u-e o                                     |
| 11            | Sound /ie/ by spellings i igh ie i-e y  |
| 12            | Sound <sub>b/oo/k</sub> by spellings oo u oul   |
| 13            | Spelling <oo> representing <sub>m/oo/n</sub> & <sub>b/oo/k</sub>                                |
| 14            | Sound /u/ by spellings u o ou   |
| 15            | Spelling <ou> representing /ow/ /u/ <sub>m/oo/n</sub>   |
| 16            | Sound /s/ by spellings s sc se ss c ce  |
| 17            | Spelling <s> representing /s/ & /z/   |
| 18            | Sound /l/ by spellings l le ll el al il   |
| 19            | First spellings of sound /or/ - or aw a au ar   |
| 20            | Sound /air/ by spellings air are ear eir ere (<ayer > as in 'prayer' and <ayor > as in 'mayor') |
| 21            | Sound /ue/ by spellings ue u-e u ew eu  |
| 22            | Spelling <ew> representing <sub>m/oo/n</sub> & /ue/   |
| 23            | Sound /oy/ by spellings oi oy   |
| 24            | Sound /ar/ by spellings ar a al au  |

| EXTENDED CODE continued |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 25                      | Sound /o/ by spellings o a   |
| 26                      | Spelling <a> representing /a/ /o/ /ae/ & /ar/                      |
| 27                      | More spellings of sound /ae/ - a ei ey eigh                        |
| 28                      | Sound /d/ by spellings d dd ed                                     |
| 29                      | More spellings of sound /ee/ - ey ie i                             |
| 30                      | Sound /i/ by spellings i ui e y                                    |
| 31                      | Spelling <y> representing /y/ /i/ /ie/ & /ee/                      |
| 32                      | More spellings of sound /oe/ - ou ough                             |
| 33                      | Sound /n/ by spellings n nn gn kn                                  |
| 34                      | More spellings of sound /er/ - ar ear our                          |
| 35                      | Sound /v/ by spellings v ve vv                                     |
| 36                      | Sound <sub>m</sub> /oo/ <sub>n</sub> by spellings ui ou ough u u-e |
| 37                      | Sound /j/ by spellings j g ge gg dge                               |
| 38                      | Sound /g/ by spellings g gg gh gu                                  |
| 39                      | Spellings <g> and <gg> representing /j/ & /g/                      |
| 40                      | Sound /f/ by spellings f ff gh ph                                  |
| 41                      | Spelling <gh> representing /f/ & /g/                               |
| 42                      | Sound /m/ by spellings m mm mb mn                                  |
| 43                      | More spellings of sound /or/ - ore oar our augh ough               |
| 44                      | Sound /h/ by spellings h wh  |
| 45                      | Sound /k/ by spellings c k ck ch cc                                |
| 46                      | Sound /r/ by spellings r rr wr rh                                  |
| 47                      | Sound /t/ by spellings t tt te bt                                  |
| 48                      | Sound /z/ by spellings z zz ze s ss se                             |
| 49                      | Sound /eer/ by spellings eer ere ear                               |

The following word lists for each 'Sounds-Write' unit will give you an idea of the vocabulary they will be meeting at each stage

| INITIAL CODE: new vocabulary available within units one to seven |                               |  |  |   |  |   |   |  |  |   |
|--|-------------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| Units:   | 1                             | 2  | 3  | 4   | 5  | 6   | 7   |  |  |   |
| Spellings:   | a l m<br>s t                  | n o p  | b c<br>g h   | d e f v   | k l r u  | j w z   | x y<br>ff ll ss zz  |  |  |   |
| Names:   | Sam<br>Tim                    | Pam<br>Pat<br>Tom  | Ben<br>Bob   | Dan<br>God<br>Mog<br>Peg  | Deb<br>Meg<br>Ned<br>Ted   | Ken<br>Kim<br>Kit   | Jan<br>Jim  | Bess<br>Bill<br>Jeff   | Jill<br>Rex  |   |
| High-frequency words:  |                               | is a   | the I  | for of  | are  | was   | all   |  |  |   |
|  | at<br>it<br>mat<br>sat<br>sit | in<br>man<br>map<br>mop<br>nan<br>nap<br>nip<br>nit<br>not<br>on<br>pan<br>pat<br>pin<br>pip<br>pit<br>pop<br>pot<br>sap<br>sin<br>sip<br>tan<br>tap<br>tin<br>tip<br>top<br>tot | bag<br>bap<br>bat<br>bib<br>bid<br>big<br>bin<br>bit<br>bob<br>bog<br>cab<br>can<br>cap<br>cat<br>cog<br>cop<br>cot<br>gag<br>gap<br>gas<br>gig<br>gob<br>hag<br>ham<br>hat<br>hit<br>hob<br>hog<br>hot<br>mac<br>mob<br>nag<br>nib<br>pig<br>sag<br>sob<br>tab<br>tag | bad<br>bed<br>beg<br>bet<br>ben<br>cod<br>dad<br>dab<br>dip<br>dod<br>dog<br>dot<br>dot<br>fan<br>fat<br>fed<br>fib<br>fig<br>fin<br>fit<br>fog<br>get<br>god | got<br>had<br>hem<br>hen<br>hid<br>him<br>hip<br>hod<br>if<br>mad<br>men<br>met<br>mid<br>net<br>nod<br>pad<br>peg<br>pen<br>pet<br>pot<br>set<br>ten<br>vac<br>vat<br>vet | bud<br>bug<br>bum<br>bun<br>bus<br>cub<br>cup<br>cut<br>dud<br>dug<br>fig<br>fug<br>fun<br>gum<br>gun<br>gut<br>hub<br>hug<br>hum<br>hut<br>keg<br>kid<br>kin<br>kip<br>kit<br>lad<br>lag<br>lap<br>led<br>leg<br>let<br>lid<br>lip<br>lit<br>lob<br>log<br>lot | lug<br>mud<br>mug<br>mum<br>nil<br>nun<br>nut<br>pal<br>pub<br>pup<br>rag<br>ram<br>ran<br>rap<br>rat<br>red<br>rib<br>rid<br>rig<br>rim<br>rip<br>rob<br>rod<br>rot<br>rub<br>rug<br>rum<br>run<br>rut<br>sum<br>sun<br>tub<br>tug<br>up<br>us | fez<br>jab<br>jam<br>jet<br>jib<br>jig<br>job<br>jog<br>jot<br>jug<br>jut<br>wag<br>web<br>wed<br>wet<br>wig<br>win<br>wit<br>wok<br>zip | box<br>cox<br>fax<br>fix<br>fox<br>lax<br>mix<br>sax<br>sex<br>six<br>tax<br>vex<br>wax<br>yak<br>yam<br>yap<br>yes<br>yob | bell<br>bill<br>doll<br>dull<br>fell<br>gull<br>hill<br>kill<br>mill<br>pill<br>sell<br>sill<br>tell<br>till<br>toll<br>well<br>will<br>yell<br><br>ass<br>boss<br>cuff<br>fuss<br>huff<br>hiss<br>kiss<br>less<br>loss<br>mess<br>miss<br>moss<br>toss<br><br>buzz<br>fizz<br>fuzz<br>jazz |

INITIAL CODE: new vocabulary available within Units 8 and 9

| 8   |                            | 9    |                         |      |       |       |       |       |
|-----|----------------------------|------|-------------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| VCC | CVCC                       |      | CCVC                    |      |       |       |       |       |
|     | High-frequency words: come |      | High-frequency word: to |      |       |       |       |       |
| act | band                       | gets | lips                    | rust | blab  | flap  | prop  | spit  |
| alp | bank                       | gift | lisp                    | sand | bled  | flat  | scab  | spot  |
| amp | baps                       | gulf | list                    | send | bless | fled  | scan  | spud  |
| and | bats                       | gulp | loft                    | sent | blip  | flip  | scull | spun  |
| ant | belt                       | gust | lump                    | sift | bliss | flit  | scum  | stab  |
| asp | bend                       | hand | maps                    | silk | blob  | flog  | skid  | stag  |
| elf | bent                       | hats | mats                    | silt | blot  | flop  | skill | stem  |
| elk | best                       | held | melt                    | sink | bluff | floss | skim  | step  |
| elm | bits                       | helm | mend                    | soft | brag  | fluff | skin  | scoff |
| end | bond                       | help | milk                    | sulk | bran  | Fred  | skip  | Scott |
| imp | bulb                       | hilt | mink                    | sunk | brat  | fret  | slab  | scuff |
| ink | bulk                       | hint | mint                    | tact | brim  | frill | slam  | skiff |
| its | bump                       | hips | mist                    | talc | clad  | frog  | slap  | sniff |
| opt | bunk                       | hits | musk                    | tank | clam  | from  | sled  | stiff |
|     | cabs                       | honk | must                    | taps | clap  | glad  | slid  | still |
|     | camp                       | hops | nest                    | temp | cliff | glen  | slim  | stop  |
|     | caps                       | hulk | nuts                    | tend | clip  | gloss | slip  | stub  |
|     | cats                       | hump | pact                    | tent | clog  | glum  | slit  | stuff |
|     | cops                       | hunt | pant                    | test | clop  | glut  | slob  | stun  |
|     | cost                       | jest | pelt                    | tilt | clot  | grab  | slog  | swag  |
|     | cups                       | jets | pest                    | tint | club  | gran  | slot  | swam  |
|     | cuts                       | jilt | pets                    | tops | crab  | grid  | slug  | swell |
|     | dabs                       | jump | pink                    | tuft | crag  | grill | slum  | swig  |
|     | damp                       | junk | pomp                    | tusk | cram  | grim  | smell | swim  |
|     | dent                       | just | pond                    | vats | cress | grin  | smog  | Swiss |
|     | desk                       | Kent | pulp                    | vend | crib  | grip  | smug  | swop  |
|     | dips                       | kept | pump                    | vent | crop  | grit  | smut  | swot  |
|     | disk                       | kiln | punk                    | vest | cross | grub  | snag  | swum  |
|     | dots                       | kilt | punt                    | weld | drab  | gruff | snap  | tram  |
|     | dump                       | kink | ramp                    | went | drag  | plan  | snip  | trap  |
|     | dunk                       | lamp | rant                    | wept | dress | plod  | snob  | trek  |
|     | dusk                       | land | rats                    | west | drill | plop  | snot  | tress |
|     | dust                       | left | rent                    | wilt | drip  | plot  | snuh  | trill |
|     | fact                       | lend | rest                    | wimp | drop  | plug  | snug  | trim  |
|     | felt                       | lent | rift                    | wind | drug  | plum  | spam  | trip  |
|     | film                       | lets | rink                    | wink | drum  | plus  | span  | trod  |
|     | fist                       | lift | rips                    | wisp | dwel  | pram  | sped  | troll |
|     | fits                       | lilt | risk                    | yank | flab  | press | spell | trot  |
|     | fond                       | limp | rump                    | yelp | flag  | prim  | spill | twig  |
|     | font                       | link | runt                    | zest | flan  | prod  | spin  | twin  |
|     | gaps                       | lint | rusk                    | zinc |       |       |       |       |

| INITIAL CODE: new vocabulary available within Units 10 and 11 |       |       |              |       |       |                             |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|-------|
| 10  |       |       |              | 11    |       |                             |       |       |
|   |       |       |              | ch    | sh    | th                          | ck    | ng    |
| <b>CCVCC</b>  |       |       | <b>CVCCC</b> |       |       |                             |       |       |
| bland   | dwelt | slink | belts        | champ | shed  | thank                       | back  | bang  |
| blank   | flank | slump | bends        | chat  | shin  | that                        | check | bring |
| blend   | flaps | slunk | bumps        | chess | ship  | theft                       | chick | clang |
| blest   | flats | smelt | costs        | chest | shop  | them                        | duck  | cling |
| blimp   | flex  | spank | dents        | chick | shot  | then                        | jack  | fling |
| blink   | flint | spasm | dumps        | chill | shut  | thin                        | kick  | king  |
| blitz   | frank | spelt | dusts        | chimp | shall | think                       | lick  | long  |
| blond   | frisk | spend | fists        | chin  | shelf | this                        | lock  | lungs |
| brand   | frond | spent | hands        | chips | shell | throb                       | luck  | prong |
| brats   | frost | spilt | jinx         | chop  | shift | thud                        | muck  | ring  |
| brink   | frump | spits | jumps        | chum  | shred | thump                       | neck  | sing  |
| brisk   | gland | spots | lamps        | chunk | shrub |                             | pack  | slang |
| clamp   | glint | stamp | limps        |       | shrug | with                        | pick  | sling |
| clank   | glitz | stand | lists        | bench | shush | moth                        | rock  | song  |
| claps   | grand | stank | lumps        | bunch |       | pith                        | sack  | sting |
| clink   | grins | steps | melts        | finch | bash  | broth                       | shack | swing |
| clips   | grunt | stilt | mints        | inch  | brush | cloth                       | shock | thing |
| clump   | plank | stink | next         | lunch | cash  | depth                       | sick  | twang |
| clunk   | plonk | stomp | ramps        | much  | crash | fifth                       | slack | wing  |
| crabs   | plump | stops | sinks        | munch | dish  | froth                       | sock  |       |
| cramp   | prank | stump | sulks        | pinch | fish  | sixth                       | stick |       |
| crept   | primp | stunk | tents        | punch | gash  | tenth                       | thick |       |
| crest   | print | stunt | text         | rich  | rash  | width                       | tick  |       |
| crimp   | prism | swept | tilts        | such  | rush  | <i>bath</i>                 | trick |       |
| crisp   | scalp | swift | winks        | tench | wish  | <i>path</i>                 | truck | q(u)  |
| croft   | scamp | tramp | yanks        | winch |       |                             |       | quack |
| crust   | skimp | traps |              |       |       |                             |       | quell |
| drank   | skins | trend | <b>CCCVC</b> |       |       |                             | wh    | quest |
| drift   | skint | trips | scrag        |       |       |                             | whack | quick |
| drink   | skips | trump | scram        |       |       |                             | wham  | quiff |
| drips   | skulk | trunk | scrap        |       |       |                             | when  | quill |
| drops   | skunk | trust | scrub        |       |       |                             | which | quilt |
| drunk   | slaps | twins | scrum        |       |       |                             | whim  | quin  |
|   | slept | twist | sprat        |       |       |                             | whip  | quit  |
|   |       |       | sprig        |       |       |                             | whisk | quiz  |
|   |       |       | strap        |       |       |                             |       | squid |
|   |       |       | strip        |       |       |                             |       |       |
|   |       |       | strop        |       |       |                             |       |       |
|   |       |       | strum        |       |       |                             |       |       |
|   |       |       | strut        |       |       |                             |       |       |
|   |       |       |              |       |       | <u>High-frequency words</u> |       |       |
|   |       |       |              |       |       | there                       | what  |       |
|   |       |       |              |       |       | these                       | where |       |
|   |       |       |              |       |       |                             | who   |       |

On our website you will find another link for word lists for the extended code