



*Barrowby Church of England Primary School*

# Letters & Sounds: Practice Makes Perfect

It must always be remembered that phonics is the step up to fluent word recognition. Automatic and effortless reading of all words – decodable and tricky – is the ultimate goal.

By repeated sounding and blending of words, children get to know them, and once this happens they should be encouraged to read them straight off in reading text, rather than continuing to sound and blend them aloud because they feel that this is what is required.

They should continue, however, to use overt or silent phonics for words that are unfamiliar.

New graphemes for reading:

ay day	oy boy	wh when	a-e make
ou out	ir girl	ph photo	e-e these
ie tie	ue blue	ew new	i-e like
ea eat	aw saw	oe toe	o-e home
zh treasure	ey donkey	au Paul	u-e rule

When sounding words out remember to say the sounds correctly. This is really important when you are helping your child to learn each sound. It is important to remember not to add an 'uh' to the end of the consonant sounds (say *mmm* not *muh*, *lll* not *luh*) etc. This will make it easier for your child to blend the sounds together in order to decode unfamiliar words. If you are not sure please use the sound chart on [oxfordowl.co.uk](http://oxfordowl.co.uk) to hear how to say each sound.

Remember tricky words (Common Exception Words) cannot be read by blending. Imagine trying to read the word *said* or *does* by blending each letter! These words just have to be learned by sight and flashcard games are a good way to practise these. This will further support the fluency of reading.

When you are out and about point out examples of the sounds that they have been learning. Build up a knowledge of each letter/ groups of letters (digraphs and trigraphs) and the corresponding sounds as quickly as possible and keep practising them so that this becomes automatic. Keep reminding them, 'Do you remember when we were talking about the sound *ch...*?', or 'Oh look! There's a big *t* (sound) on that poster!'

Phonics  
ee ur ow  
wh y au

Most importantly reading should be fun and remember that your child will learn much faster with encouragement and praise. Happy reading!

For more information and support on letters and sounds, please visit our school website by [CLICKING HERE.](#)