



St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School



Highview Crescent, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1BJ
Telephone Brentwood (01277) 227282 **Email** admin@st-josephworker.essex.sch.uk
Website www.st-josephworker.essex.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Kathryn Poulter

Friday 19th September 2025

Dear Reception Parents,

We've had a brilliant week in Reception as we begin our phonics journey using the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* programme. The children have been introduced to their first set of sounds: **s, a, t, p**.

Amazon have a parent pack of the sounds in phase 2 - which you might find useful when practicing with your children at home - although it might be tempting, please do not rush ahead with the sounds, before they are taught in school.

[Little Wandle at Home First Phonics Flashcards for Reception : Wandle Learning Trust and Little Sutton Primary School: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)

Each day, we've explored a new sound through:

- Listening and articulation games
- Copying and repeating sounds
- Letter formation practice, using fun rhymes to help children remember how to write each letter. *(Please see the attached sheet to help you learn the rhymes at home and practise with your child.)* It's important for children to form letters correctly from the very beginning, as incorrect formation can be difficult to 'unlearn' later on.

We've also been working on developing pencil control and grip, encouraging children to use a pincer grasp when holding their pencil. This is a key step in building strong foundations for writing.



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To support this, we've included lots of fine motor skill activities in our classroom, such as:

- Playdough modelling to strengthen finger muscles
- Threading beads
- Tweezers and pom-pom sorting
- Cutting and sticking crafts
- Peg boards and small construction toys

These activities help children build the strength and coordination needed for confident writing:

You can support your child at home by:

- Practising the phonics sounds together - learnt in school
- Saying the letter formation rhymes as they write
- Encouraging play with small objects to build fine motor skills
- Reading together and spotting sounds in books and signs

We're so proud of how engaged and enthusiastic the children have been. Thank you for your continued support—please do reach out if you'd like any ideas for phonics or fine motor activities to try at home!

Next week, I'll update you on the reading books that the children will be sharing in class and bringing home to read with you.



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For further information, please take a look at our website, which has some videos of how each phoneme sounds:

[Phonics and Early Reading | St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School](#)

Kind regards

Mrs Freire-Norman



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