



St Joseph's Nursery and Infant School

Orchard Gardens
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1DG
Tel: 01243 782818
Email: office@stjosephsinfant.school
Website: www.stjosephsinfant.school



Executive Headteacher: Mrs Lisa Hardy BAEd (QTS) NPQH

4th July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We are becoming a 'Sounds Write' school!

Sounds Write is an evidence based, highly structured, systematic synthetic phonics program which teaches children how the alphabetic code works. Fundamentally, it teaches children the key skills required to be effective readers and spellers. Learning to read is not one skill; it is a complex of skills, conceptual knowledge and code knowledge, starting with what children learn naturally-their own language. This theory isn't new-we have always taught phonics focusing on the core skills of blending, segmenting and phoneme manipulation, but what Sounds Write will do is provide thorough training for the staff who will be new to us in September, ensuring consistency across the school.

We are heavily investing as a school in this, including a new reading scheme for our phonetically decodable books. As part of this, we will be collecting in all our phonics-based books (these are up to approx. turquoise colour band wise-turquoise colour band and above will remain as they are and children reading those books, will continue doing so) that the children have in their book bags, for reorganisation this week. These will be replaced by paper copies of decodable books for the children to keep and read at home instead and of course as always, we actively encourage a wide range of reading at home. Please do send any books you have at home from school in ASAP.

I'll be running several workshops during the next academic year on how you can support your child to become a fluent reader using the same approach we will be using in school, but in the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

With thanks and best wishes,

Laura Turner
Assistant Head Teacher