SS Peter & Paul Catholic Primary School

Phonics and Spelling Language Continuum

The language our children are taught and use, term by term · Little Wandle · 2026–27

Phonics language is taught explicitly alongside the alphabetic code. Children learn the vocabulary needed to talk precisely about sounds, graphemes, blending, spelling and word structure. The terminology below is introduced when it becomes meaningful, revisited cumulatively and used in phonics, reading and spelling lessons.

Year	Autumn	Spring	Summer
Reception	Phase 2 sound, phoneme, grapheme, letter, blend, blending, segment, segmenting, tricky word, word, sentence, digraph, double letter	Phase 3 phoneme, grapheme, digraph, trigraph, blend, segment, tricky word, double letter, longer word, compound word	Phase 4 adjacent consonants, short vowel, long vowel, blend, segment, longer word, compound word, root word, ending, suffix, -s, -es, -ing, -ed, -er, -est, secure spelling
Year 1	Review Phases 3/4 + begin Phase 5 review, GPC, phoneme, grapheme, digraph, trigraph, adjacent consonants, long vowel, tricky word, Phase 5, alternative grapheme, Grow the code	Phase 5 - extend the code alternative grapheme, alternative pronunciation, phoneme, grapheme, split digraph, schwa, longer word, Grow the code, tricky word	Phase 5 - review and secure review, secure, apply, alternative grapheme, alternative pronunciation, phoneme, grapheme, phonics screening check, tricky word, schwa
Year 2	Phase 5 review → Bridge to spelling Complete the code, alphabetic code, grapheme, phoneme, tricky word, spelling, double, final letter, longer word, suffix, root word, -s, -es, -ing, -ed, swap, drop	Spelling units 1-7 spelling pattern, suffix, root word, drop the e, swap y for i, soft c, W special, homophone, prickly spelling, -le, -al, -il, -el, grapheme choice	Spelling units 8-14 morphology, suffix, root word, -ment, -ness, -ful, -less, -ly, contraction, apostrophe, possessive apostrophe, homophone, swap, drop, double, /sh/ spelling, /zh/ spelling

Disciplinary language — how readers and spellers talk about their work

Reception	Year 1	Year 2
listen, say, hear, sound-talk, blend, segment, read, spell, check, reread	review, recognise, blend, segment, read, spell, choose, compare, notice, explain, apply	review, identify, choose, explain, apply, add, remove, swap, drop, double, compare, check, correct

Precision of language is a core phonics and spelling skill. Teachers model and upgrade language in the moment: for example, rather than 'two letters making one sound', children are taught to say 'a digraph represents one phoneme'. In Year 2, children increasingly explain spelling choices using the language of root words, suffixes, homophones and spelling patterns.