

## Unlocking Letters and Sounds Progression

The progression used in **Unlocking Letters and Sounds** largely follows the progression contained in *Letters and Sounds 2007*, with some modifications based upon:

- a decade of experience of teaching using Letters and Sounds in schools
- feedback from schools who have been trialling the **Unlocking Letters and Sounds** programme
- refinements and clarifications of learning elements omitted from Letters and Sounds
- updated guidance, including requirements from the National Curriculum

The progression is structured broadly to follow Phases 2 to 5 of *Letters and Sounds*, but some phases are subdivided into smaller sections, offering structured opportunities for revision ('Mastery') and for spelling development. The phases are organised as follows:

- Phase 2
- Phase 3
- Phase 3 Mastery
- Phase 4

- Phase 4 Mastery
- Phase 4 Revision (including NC Y1 requirements)
- Phase 5a)
- Phase 5a) Mastery (including NC Y1 requirements)
- Phase 5b)
- Phase 5c)
- Phase 5a) Spellings recap and 5b) Mastery
- Phase 5c) Mastery

Year group	Week (Term)	Week (Phase)	Phase	GPCs taught	CEW taught
Preschool	-		One	Sound discrimination, phonological awareness, rhyme, oral blending and segmenting	
Reception Autumn Term 1	1	1	Two	satp	
Reception Autumn Term 1	2	2	Two	i n m d	
Reception Autumn Term 1	3	3	Two	gock	Read: <b>the</b>
Reception Autumn Term 1	4	4	Two	ck e u r	Read: to, into
Reception Autumn Term 1	5	5	Two	h b f ff	Read: <b>no</b> , <b>I</b>



Reception Autumn Term 1	6	6	Two	I II ss Read words with -s ending	Read: <b>go</b>
Reception Autumn Term 2	1	1	Three	jvwx	Read: <b>me</b>
Reception Autumn Term 2	2	2	Three	y z zz qu	Read: <b>we</b> , <b>be</b> Write: <b>the</b> , <b>into</b> , <b>go</b> , <b>to</b>
Reception Autumn Term 2	3	3	Three	ch sh th (voiced and unvoiced) ng	Read: <b>he</b> , <b>she</b>
Reception Autumn Term 2	4	4	Three	ai ee igh oa	Read: <b>was</b> , <b>you</b> Write: <b>I</b> , <b>no</b>
Reception Autumn Term 2	5	5	Three	oo ar or ur	Read: they, all
Reception Autumn Term 2	6	6	Three	Read words containing <b>-ing</b> endings with no change to the root word Assess and review Phase 3 work Weeks 1 - 5	
Reception Spring Term 1	1	7	Three	ow oi ear air	Read: <b>are</b> , <b>my</b>
Reception Spring Term 1	2	8	Three	<b>ure er</b> Reading and spelling words containing digraphs and trigraphs	Read: <b>her</b>
Reception Spring Term 1	3	9	Three	Assess and review Phase 3 work	
Reception Spring Term 1	4	1	Three (Mastery)	Revisit GPCs and CEW: j v w x, me	Revisit: <b>me</b>
Reception Spring Term 1	5	2	Three (Mastery)	Revisit GPCs and CEW: <b>y z zz qu</b> , we, be	Revisit: <b>we</b> , <b>be</b>
Reception Spring Term 1	6	3	Three (Mastery)	Revisit GPCs and CEW: <b>ch sh th ng</b> , he, she	Revisit: <b>he</b> , <b>she</b>
Reception Spring Term 2	1	4	Three (Mastery)	Revisit GPCs and CEW: ai ee igh oa, was, you	Revisit: was, you



Reception Spring Term 2	2	5	Three (Mastery)	Revisit GPCs and CEW: <b>oo ar or ur</b> they, all	Revisit: <b>they</b> , <b>all</b>
Reception Spring Term 2	3	6	Three (Mastery)	Revisit GPCs and CEW: <b>ow oi ear air</b> , are, my	Revisit: <b>are</b> , <b>my</b>
Reception Spring Term 2	4	7	Three (Mastery)	Revisit GPCs and CEW: <b>ure er</b> , her	Revisit: <b>her</b>
Reception Spring Term 2	5	8	Three (Mastery)	Assess and review Phase 3 work	
Reception Spring Term 2	6	9	Three (Mastery)	Assess and review Phase 3 work	
Reception Summer Term 1	1	1	Four	CVCC and CCVC words: teach blending of words with adjacent consonants that contain graphemes taught in Phase 2	Read: said, have Write: he, she, we, me, be
Reception Summer Term 1	2	2	Four	CVCC and CCVC words: teach blending of words with adjacent consonants that contain graphemes taught in Phase 2	Read: <b>like</b> , <b>so</b> , <b>do</b> Write: <b>was</b> , <b>you</b>
Reception Summer Term 1	3	3	Four	CVCC and CCVC words: teach blending of words with adjacent consonants that contain graphemes taught in Phase 2	Read: <b>some</b> , <b>come</b> Write: <b>they</b> , <b>all</b> , <b>are</b>
Reception Summer Term 1	4	4	Four	CVCC and CCVC words: teach blending of words with adjacent consonants that contain graphemes taught in Phase 2	Read: were, there Write: my, her
Reception Summer Term 1	5	5	Four	CVCC and CCVC words: teach blending of words with adjacent consonants that contain graphemes taught in Phase 2 Read words containing -ed endings with no change to the root word	Read: little, one
Reception Summer Term 1	6	6	Four	CVCC and CCVC words: teach blending of words with adjacent consonants that contain graphemes taught in Phase 2 Read words containing -ing endings with no change to the root word	Read: when, out, what
Reception Summer Term 2	1	1	Four (Mastery)	<b>CVCC</b> words: teach blending of words with adjacent consonants that containing graphemes taught in Phase 3	Revisit: said, have
Reception Summer Term 2	2	2	Four (Mastery)	<b>CCVC</b> words: teach blending of words with adjacent consonants that containing graphemes taught in Phase 3	Revisit: <b>like</b> , <b>so</b> , <b>do</b>
Reception Summer Term 2	3	3	Four (Mastery)	Teach blending of polysyllabic <b>CVCC</b> and <b>CCVC</b> words	Revisit: <b>some</b> , <b>come</b>



Reception Summer Term 2	4	4	Four (Mastery)	Teach blending of <b>CCVCC</b> words	Revisit: were, there
Reception Summer Term 2	5	5	Four (Mastery)	Teach blending of <b>CCVCC</b> and polysyllabic <b>CCVCC</b> words	Revisit: little, one
Reception Summer Term 2	6	6	Four (Mastery)	Teach blending of <b>CCCVCC</b> words	Revisit: when, out, what
Year 1 Autumn Term 1	1	1	Four (Revision plus Y1 NC requirements)	Revise Phase 4.  Teach adding -s and -es as a plural marker for nouns  Teach adding -s and -es as a third person singular marker for verbs  Revisit blending of words where -s and -es are added	
Year 1 Autumn Term 1	2	2	Four (Revision plus Y1 NC requirements)	Revise Phase 4. Teach adding the suffix <b>-ing</b> to verbs	
Year 1 Autumn Term 1	3	3	Four (Revision plus Y1 NC requirements)	Revise Phase 4. Teach adding the suffix <b>-ed</b> to verbs Teach adding the suffix <b>-er</b> to verbs to change them to a noun Revisit adding the suffixes <b>-ed</b> and <b>-er</b> to verbs	
Year 1 Autumn Term 1	4	4	Four (Revision plus Y1 NC requirements)	Revise Phase 4. Teach adding the suffix <b>-er</b> to adjectives Teach adding the suffix <b>-est</b>	
Year 1 Autumn Term 1	5	5	Four (Revision plus Y1 NC requirements)	Revise Phase 4. Teach adding the prefix <b>un-</b> to verbs Teach adding the prefix <b>un-</b> to adjectives	
Year 1 Autumn Term 1	6	6	Four (Revision plus Y1 NC requirements)	Revise Phase 4. Teach reading words with contractions	
Year 1 Autumn Term 2	1	1	Five a)	Teach new graphemes for reading: <b>ay ou ie ea</b> Teach the days of the week	Read: <b>oh</b> , <b>their</b>
Year 1 Autumn Term 2	2	2	Five a)	Teach new graphemes for reading: <b>oy ir ue</b> (as in <b>glue</b> ) <b>ue</b> (as in <b>cue</b> )	Read: <b>people</b> Write: <b>said</b> , <b>so</b>



Year 1 Autumn Term 2	3	3	Five a)	Teach new graphemes for reading: <b>aw wh ph ew</b> (as in <b>blew</b> )	Read: <b>Mr</b> , <b>Mrs</b> Write: <b>have</b>
Year 1 Autumn Term 2	4	4	Five a)	Teach new graphemes for reading: <b>ew</b> (as in <b>few</b> ) <b>oe au ey</b> Teach new phoneme <b>/zh/</b>	Read: <b>looked</b> , <b>called</b> Write: <b>like</b>
Year 1 Autumn Term 2	5	5	Five a)	Teach new graphemes for reading: <b>a-e</b> , <b>e-e</b> , <b>i-e</b> , <b>o-e</b>	Revisit (read): <b>called</b> Write: <b>some</b> , <b>come</b>
Year 1 Autumn Term 2	6	6	Five a)	Teach new graphemes for reading: <b>u-e</b> (as in <b>flute</b> ) <b>u-e</b> (as in <b>cube</b> )	Read: <b>asked</b> Write: <b>were</b> , <b>there</b>
Year 1 Spring Term 1	1	1	Five a) (Mastery plus Y1 NC requirements)	Revise new graphemes for reading: <b>ay ou ie ea</b> Revise the days of the week Teach correct use of <b>-nk</b> (NC)	Revisit (read): <b>oh</b> , <b>their</b>
Year 1 Spring Term 1	2	2	Five a) (Mastery plus Y1 NC requirements)	Revise new graphemes for reading: <b>oy ir ue</b> (as in <b>glue</b> ) <b>ue</b> (as in <b>cue</b> ) Teach correct use of <b>ph</b> (NC)	Revisit (read): <b>people</b> Revisit (write): <b>said</b> , <b>so</b>
Year 1 Spring Term 1	3	3	Five a) (Mastery plus Y1 NC requirements)	Revise new graphemes for reading: <b>aw wh ph ew</b> (as in <b>blew</b> ) Teach correct use of <b>-wh</b> (NC)	Revisit (read): <b>Mr</b> , <b>Mrs</b> Revisit (write): <b>have</b>
Year 1 Spring Term 1	4	4	Five a) (Mastery plus Y1 NC requirements)	Revise new graphemes for reading: <b>ew</b> (as in <b>few</b> ) <b>oe au ey</b> Teach correct use of <b>-tch</b> (NC)	Revisit (read): <b>looked</b> , <b>called</b> Revisit (write): <b>like</b>
Year 1 Spring Term 1	5	5	Five a) (Mastery plus Y1 NC requirements)	Revise new graphemes for reading: <b>a-e e-e i-e o-e</b> Teach correct use of <b>-ve</b> (NC)	Revisit (read): called Revisit (write): some, come
Year 1 Spring Term 1	6	6	Five a) (Mastery plus Y1 NC requirements)	Revise new graphemes for reading: <b>u-e</b> (as in <b>flute</b> ) <b>u-e</b> (as in <b>cube</b> ) Revise all Phase 5a) Assess and review correct use of NC letters/suffixes	Revisit (read): <b>asked</b> Revisit (write): <b>were</b> , <b>there</b>
Year 1 Spring Term 2	1	1	Five b)	Teach alternative pronunciations of known graphemes for reading: <b>a</b> (as in <b>acorn</b> ), <b>a</b> (as in <b>fast</b> ), <b>a</b> (as in <b>was</b> ), <b>e</b> (as in <b>he</b> ) Teach reading the common exception words <b>water</b> , <b>where</b> , <b>who</b> , <b>again</b>	Read: water, where, who, again Write: little, one



Year 1 Spring Term 2	2	2	Five b)	Teach alternative pronunciations of known graphemes for reading: <b>i</b> (as in <b>mind</b> ), <b>o</b> (as in <b>no</b> ), <b>u</b> (as in <b>unit</b> ), <b>u</b> (as in <b>put</b> )  Teach reading the common exception words <b>thought</b> , <b>through</b> , <b>mouse</b> , <b>work</b>	Read: thought, through, mouse, work Write: do
Year 1 Spring Term 2	3	3	Five b)	Teach alternative pronunciations of known graphemes for reading: <b>ow</b> (as in <b>snow</b> ), <b>ie</b> (as in <b>chief</b> ), <b>ea</b> (as in <b>head</b> ), <b>er</b> (as in <b>her</b> )  Teach reading the common exception words <b>many</b> , <b>laughed</b> , <b>because</b>	Read: many, laughed, because Write: when, what
Year 1 Spring Term 2	4	4	Five b)	Teach alternative pronunciations of known graphemes for reading: <b>ou</b> (as in <b>you</b> ), <b>ou</b> (as in <b>could</b> ), <b>ou</b> (as in <b>mould</b> ), <b>y</b> (as in <b>by</b> ), <b>y</b> (as in <b>gym</b> )  Teach reading the common exception words <b>different</b> , <b>any</b> , <b>eyes</b>	Read: different, any, eyes Write: out
Year 1 Spring Term 2	5	5	Five b)	Teach alternative pronunciations of known graphemes for reading: <b>y</b> (as in <b>very</b> ), <b>ch</b> (as in <b>school</b> ), <b>ch</b> (as in <b>cell</b> ), <b>g</b> (as in <b>gent</b> ), <b>ey</b> (as in <b>they</b> )  Teach reading the common exception words <b>friends</b> , <b>once</b> , <b>please</b>	Read: friends, once, please
Year 1 Spring Term 2	6	6	Five b)	Assess and review alternative pronunciations of known graphemes for reading Assess and review reading new common exception words and correct use of NC endings	
Year 1 Summer Term 1	1	1	Five c)	Teach alternative spellings of phonemes: /ch/ (as in picture), /ch/ (as in catch), /j/ (as in fudge), /m/ (as in lamb)	Write: <b>oh</b>
Year 1 Summer Term 1	2	2	Five c)	Teach alternative spellings of phonemes: /n/ (as in gnat), /n/ (as in knit), /r/ (as in wrap), /s/ (as in listen)	Write: <b>their</b>
Year 1 Summer Term 1	3	3	Five c)	Teach alternative spellings of phonemes: /s/ (as in house), /z/ (as in please), /u/ (as in some), /i/ (as in happy)	
Year 1 Summer Term 1	4	4	Five c)	Teach alternative spellings of phonemes: /i/ (as in donkey), /ear/ (as in here), /ear/ (as in beer), /er/ (as in father)	Write: <b>people</b>
Year 1 Summer Term 1	5	5	Five c)	Teach alternative spellings of phonemes: /ar/ (as in half), /air/ (as in there), /air/ (as in pear), /air/ (as in bare), /or/ (as in all)	Write: Mr, Mrs
Year 1 Summer Term 1	6	6	Five c)	Teach alternative spellings of phonemes: /or/ (as in four), /or/ (as in caught), /ur/ (as in learn), /ur/ (as in word)	Write: looked
Year 1 Summer Term 2	1	7	Five c)	Teach alternative spellings of phonemes: <b>/oo/</b> (as in <b>could</b> ), <b>/oo/</b> (as in <b>put</b> ), <b>/ai/</b> (as in <b>day</b> ), <b>/ai/</b> (as in <b>came</b> ), <b>/ee/</b> (as in <b>sea</b> )	
Year 1 Summer Term 2	2	8	Five c)	Teach alternative spellings of phonemes: <b>/ee/</b> (as in <b>these</b> ), <b>/ee/</b> (as in <b>happy</b> ), <b>/ee/</b> (as in <b>chief</b> ), <b>/ee/</b> (as in <b>key</b> )	Write: called, asked



Year 1 Summer Term 2	3	9	Five c)	Teach alternative spellings of phonemes: /igh/ (as in pie), /igh/ (as in by), /igh/ (as in like), /oa/ (as in low)	
Year 1 Summer Term 2	4	10	Five c)	Teach alternative spellings of phonemes: <b>/oa/</b> (as in <b>toe</b> ), <b>/oa/</b> (as in <b>bone</b> ), <b>/(y)oo/</b> (as in <b>cue</b> ), <b>/(y)oo/</b> (as in <b>tune</b> )	
Year 1 Summer Term 2	5	11	Five c)	Teach alternative spellings of phonemes: /(y)oo/ (as in stew), /oo/ (as in clue), /oo/ (as in June), /oo/ (as in blew)	
Year 1 Summer Term 2	6	12	Five c)	Teach alternative spellings of phonemes: /sh/ (as in special), /sh/ (as in station), /sh/ (as in sugar), /sh/ (as in chef)	
Year 2 Autumn Term 1	1	1	Five a) (Spellings recap)	Spellings: choosing from alternative graphemes with the same sound: oi/oy, ow/ou, ur/er/ir, or/aw/au, ai/ay/a-e Revise reading all common exception words	
Year 2 Autumn Term 1	2	2	Five a) (Spellings recap)	Spellings: choosing from alternative graphemes with the same sound: <b>ee/ea/e-e/ey</b> , <b>igh/ie/i-e</b> , <b>oa/oe/o-e</b> , <b>oo/ew/ue/u-e</b> ( <b>oo</b> ), <b>ew/ue/u-e</b> ( <b>you</b> ) Revise reading all common exception words	
Year 2 Autumn Term 1	3	1	Five b) (Mastery)	Revisit alternative pronunciations of known graphemes for reading: <b>a</b> (as in <b>acorn</b> ), <b>a</b> (as in <b>fast</b> ), <b>a</b> (as in <b>was</b> ), <b>e</b> (as in <b>he</b> ), <b>i</b> (as in <b>mind</b> )  Revisit reading the common exception words <b>water</b> , <b>where</b> , <b>who</b> , <b>again</b>	
Year 2 Autumn Term 1	4	2	Five b) (Mastery)	Revisit alternative pronunciations of known graphemes for reading: <b>o</b> (as in <b>no</b> ), <b>u</b> (as in <b>unit</b> ), <b>u</b> (as in <b>put</b> ), <b>ow</b> (as in <b>snow</b> ), <b>ie</b> (as in <b>chief</b> ) Revisit reading the common exception words <b>thought</b> , <b>through</b> , <b>mouse</b> , <b>work</b>	
Year 2 Autumn Term 1	5	3	Five b) (Mastery)	Revisit alternative pronunciations of known graphemes for reading: <b>ea</b> (as in <b>head</b> ), <b>ou</b> (as in <b>you</b> ), <b>ou</b> (as in <b>could</b> ), <b>ou</b> (as in <b>mould</b> ), <b>y</b> (as in <b>by</b> ), <b>y</b> (as in <b>gym</b> ), <b>y</b> (as in <b>very</b> ), <b>ch</b> (as in <b>school</b> ), <b>ch</b> (as in <b>chef</b> ) Revisit reading the common exception words <b>different</b> , <b>any</b> , <b>eyes</b>	
Year 2 Autumn Term 1	6	4	Five b) (Mastery)	Revisit alternative pronunciations of known graphemes for reading: <b>y</b> (as in <b>very</b> ), <b>ch</b> (as in <b>school</b> ), <b>ch</b> (as in <b>cell</b> ), <b>g</b> (as in <b>gent</b> ), <b>ey</b> (as in <b>they</b> )  Revisit reading the common exception words <b>friends</b> , <b>once</b> , <b>please</b> Revisit reading all common exception words	
Year 2 Autumn Term 2	1	1	Five c) (Mastery)	Revisit alternative spellings of phonemes: /ch/ (as in picture), /ch/ (as in catch), /j/ (as in fudge), /m/ (as in lamb), /n/ (as in gnat), /n/ (as in knit), /r/ (as in wrap) Revisit reading all common exception words	



Year 2 Autumn Term 2	2	2	Five c) (Mastery)	Revisit alternative spellings of phonemes: /s/ (as in listen), /s/ (as in house), /z/ (as in please), /u/ (as in some), /ee/ (as in happy), /i/ (as in donkey), /ear/ (as in here), /ear/ (as in beer) Revisit reading all common exception words	
Year 2 Autumn Term 2	3	3	Five c) (Mastery)	Revisit alternative spellings of phonemes: /ar/ (as in father), /ar/ (as in half), /air/ (as in there), /air/ (as in pear), /air/ (as in bare), /or/ (as in all), /or/ (as in four), /or/ (as in caught), /ur/ (as in learn), /ur/ (as in word), /oo/ (as in could), /oo/ (as in put)  Revisit reading all common exception words	
Year 2 Autumn Term 2	4	4	Five c) (Mastery)	Revisit alternative spellings of phonemes: /ai/ (as in day), /ai/ (as in came), /ee/ (as in sea), /ee/ (as in these), /ee/ (as in happy), /ee/ (as in chief), /ee/ (as in key), /igh/ (as in pie), /igh/ (as in by), /igh/ (as in like), /oa/ (as in toe), /oa/ (as in bone), /(y)oo/ (as in cue), /(y)oo/ (as in stew)  Revisit reading all common exception words	
Year 2 Autumn Term 2	5	5	Five c) (Mastery)	Revisit alternative spellings of phonemes: /oo/ (as in clue), /oo/ (as in June), /oo/ (as in blew), /sh/ (as in special), /sh/ (as in station), /sh/ (as in sugar), /sh/ (as in chef) Revisit reading all common exception words	
Year 2 Autumn Term 2	6	6	Five c) (Mastery)	Assessment and review of all alternative spellings of phonemes. Assessment and review of all common exception words	

<sup>\*</sup> At this point phonics teaching will continue as an intervention for those children who still require it. Year 2 children will move on to learning spelling as per National Curriculum requirements.

<sup>★</sup> Note: Y1 NC coverage should also be taught within Year 1 English lessons.