



## *Working Together, Growing Together*

### **Phonics philosophy**

At Essendine, we believe every child should learn to read well, quickly through high quality phonics teaching. At Essendine, phonics is taught through the validated Essential Letters and Sounds scheme, which enables children to make quick progress and become fluent and confident readers. We aim to ensure all children are fluent and confident readers by the time they leave KS1. Any child who does not pass the phonics screener test, will be supported through KS2.

Through the rigorous teaching programme, children in EYFS and KS1 will build an immediate understanding of the relationship between the sounds they can hear and say (phonemes) and the written sounds (graphemes). Every lesson has been designed to ensure that the minimum cognitive load is placed on the learner. The structure of the lessons allows children to predict what is coming next, what they need to do, and how to achieve success. Children will get the same high-quality first teaching every lesson, every day throughout the programme.

Decodable Books:

Each week, children at Essendine will take home a book, which is decodable to them. These books allow the children to apply and practise their phonic knowledge and do not require use of alternative strategies.

These books are matched to our scheme, Essential Letters and Sounds, and include titles from:

- Project X
- Hero Academy
- Wordsparks
- Traditional Tales