

# Unlocking Letters & Sounds

Meet the DfE validated SSP programme

# Unlocking Letters and Sounds



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# Unlocking Letters and Sounds Overview


- DfE validated
- Covers Phases 1 to 5
- Thoughtfully developed by practising teachers to reduce teacher workload
- Aligned to the recent DfE Reading Framework and early reading best practice
- Fully integrated with a programme of beautiful decodable books
- Affordable and flexible buying options to suit every budget

# Progression

The ULS progression largely follows the progression contained in Letters and Sounds 2007, with some modifications, including

- Refinements and clarifications of learning elements omitted from Letters and Sounds
- Updated guidance, including requirements from the National Curriculum





## 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	
			Two	s a t p	Read: the
Reception Autumn Term 1	1	1	Two	i n m d	Read: to, int
Reception Autumn Term 1	2	2	Two	g o c k	Read: no, I
Reception Autumn Term 1	3	3	Two	c k e u r	
Reception Autumn Term 1	4	4	Two	h b f ff	

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# Progression

The ULS progression is also structured to follow Phases 1 to 5 of Letters and Sounds, but some phases are subdivided into smaller sections, offering structured opportunities for revision ('Mastery') and for spelling development.

	Autumn	Spring	Summer
YR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phase 2</li><li>• Phase 3</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phase 3 (finish)</li><li>• Phase 3 Mastery</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phase 4</li><li>• Phase 4 Mastery</li></ul>
Y1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phase 4 Revision (plus Y1 NC requirements)</li><li>• Phase 5a</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phase 5a Mastery (plus Y1 NC requirements)</li><li>• Phase 5b</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phase 5c</li></ul>
Y2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phase 5a (spellings recap)</li><li>• Phase 5b Mastery</li><li>• Phase 5c Mastery</li></ul>		

# Full Lesson Planning

- ULS uses whole class phonics lessons, following the 'keep up not catch up' approach
- These lessons are fully planned, right down to the slides for your digital whiteboards
- Lessons consistently follow a 'revisit, teach, practise, apply, review' structure – so they're easy for teachers to learn, create a routine children will love, and really support the lowest 20%



## Seeing is believing...

Check out an extract of an ULS lesson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdfdV3A9luY>

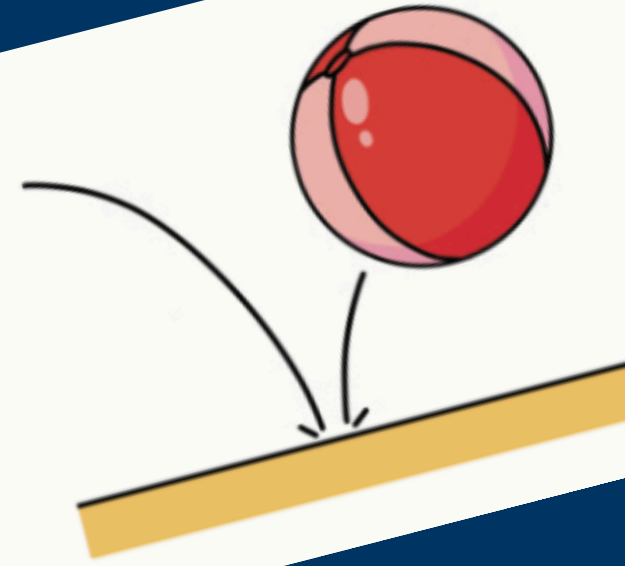
(Please note that this video features digital slides that have since been redesigned!)



# Actions

- ULS uses actions (and images) for Phases 2 and 3 GPCs
- They are simple, clear and logical actions that don't impede the sound, and are voiced once so that teachers can spot children saying the sound slightly behind the rest

**b**



**Ball** – Bouncing a ball

**d**



**Dog** – Digging dog

**ff**



**Puff** – Puffing out candles

# Guided Reading

With a focus on being achievable, ULS recommends a child reading at age-related expectations should experience one guided reading session a week.

As well as guidance around guided reading, ULS includes pre-planned guided reading lessons for the perfectly matched Reading Stars Phonics books. These teach

- GPCs
- Blending
- Comprehension
- Prosody





Flip Flap Fox

Lesson Plan for Guided Reading

Phase 5

Book talk

A short introduction to the book, which might include:

- Read the title
- What or who can you see on the cover of the book?
- What do you think the book might be about?

Phonics focus

- Revisit and review some of the phonemes that the children will encounter in the text

Blending focus

- Ask the children to blend and read some of the words that they will encounter in the book
- Practise blending words containing adjacent consonants and long vowel phonemes
- Practise blending polysyllabic words, first 'chunking' them and then reading them quickly

Vocabulary

- Discuss the meanings of any words in the text that the children might be unfamiliar with

Common exception words

- Quick recall of common exception words

Independent reading

The children are to turn their chairs back-to-back and read aloud to themselves. The teacher is to go around and listen to each child, providing them with support and feedback as appropriate.

Reading fluency

Modelling expression and fluency: on pages 2 and 14, the teacher should model and then the children practise saying these sentences with expression.

Comprehension

Page 2: Why did the little fox whisper, rather than shout, "Bring back some food?"

Page 10: Which words has the author used to describe how Fox is?

Page 12: Why could Fox no longer fit through the cat flap?

Is this book fiction or non-fiction?

Have you ever seen a fox?

Where do you think this story might be set?

What other creatures do you know of that come out at night?

/ir/, /ue/, /aw/, /wh/

whispers

drawer

Whiskers

statue

happening

well-kept – kept clean, tidy, and in good condition

ajar – a door or opening left slightly open

cub – a young fox

Mr

Mrs

A small illustration of a fox standing in a field, part of the 'Flip Flap Fox' book cover.



# Assessment and Intervention

ULS includes everything you need to track class progress – and to identify and support the lowest 20%.

- Daily formative assessment within every lesson
- Regular (but achievable!) diagnostic assessment to identify gaps in children's learning
- A whole class assessment sheet and a one-page individual assessment record
- A set of six powerful interventions that quickly fill any gaps, as well as support around selecting and implementing them



# Tested by Real Teachers in Real Classrooms

The lessons are very easy to follow and our children love the consistency and the structure. Clear assessment has meant that gaps in learning are identified quickly and 1:1 intervention is targeted accurately... Staff love the interventions as they fit easily into the school day and busy classroom - and have shown great results!

**Woolavington Village Primary School**

Leaders have implemented a very effective phonics programme. Children in early years and pupils in key stage 1 learn to read well. They are able to make strong links between sounds and the letters they represent. Pupils are eager to read.

**OFSTED HMI report,  
Woolavington Primary**

The excellent Unlocking Letters and Sounds resources for the planning, teaching and assessment of phonics have ensured consistency across our classes and we have seen rapid progress in our pupils.

**Stoke Park Primary School, Bristol**



# The Product

There are four parts to ULS.

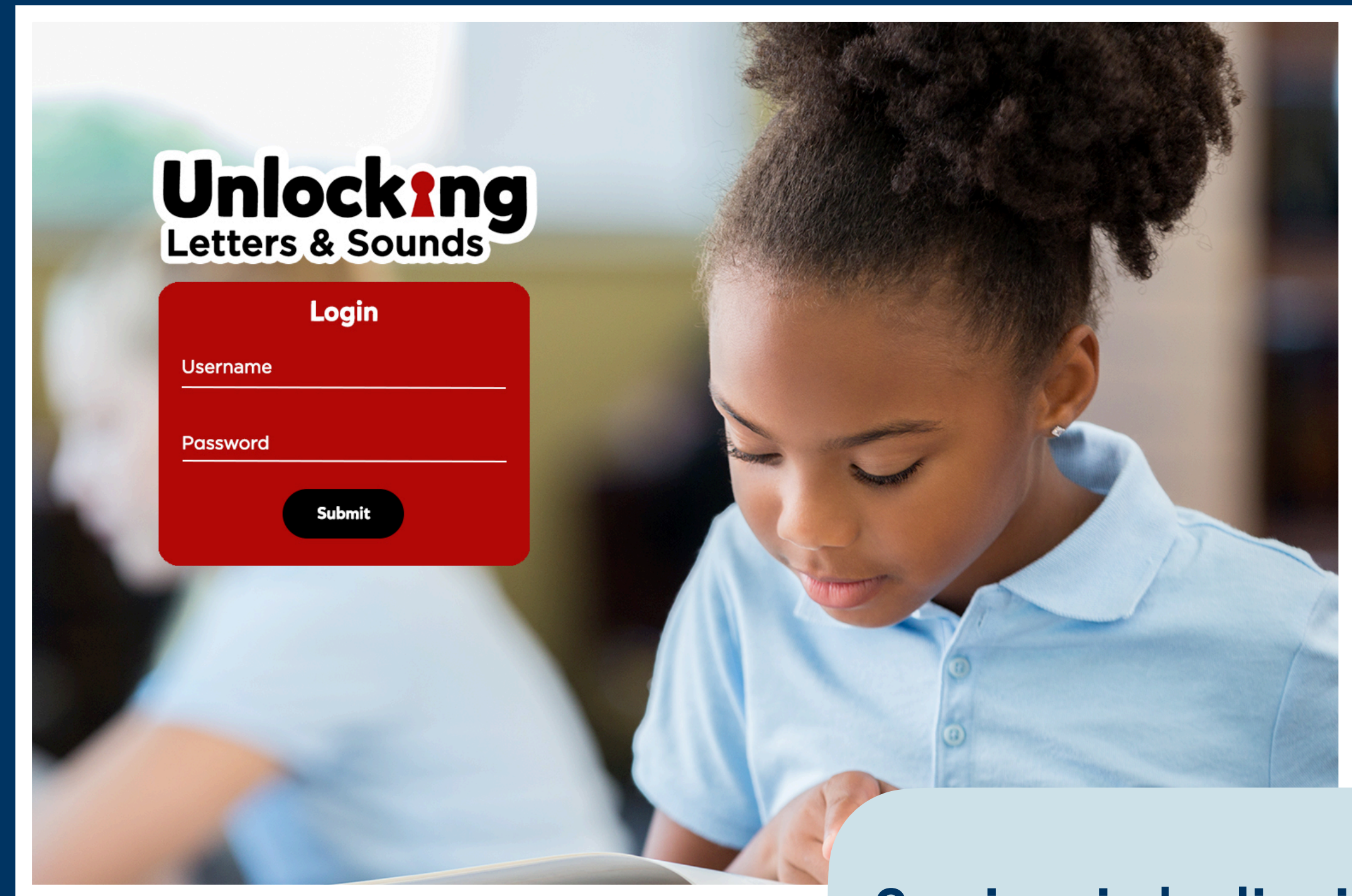
The only things you need to begin teaching with fidelity are the **core digital subscription** and the **full CPD training**.

You may then choose to purchase the following:

- **Fully decodable reading books** (the popular Reading Stars Phonics readers have been perfectly matched to the programme)
- **Professionally printed versions of resources**

# 1) Core Digital Subscription

- A ULS subscription grants you access to the user-friendly online platform, which is the heart of the programme
- £300 annually (£250 for small schools) - and free until September 2022 for the first 300 schools to sign up
- Here you can find everything you need in one place...



**Seeing is believing...**

Want to see some samples of the resources you'll find on this online platform? Get in touch!



Key documents, like the progression and book matching chart

Weekly overviews of our structured lessons, the slides to deliver the lessons - and walkthroughs to guide you through using those slides

Guided reading support, including pre-prepared lesson plans for the Reading Stars Phonics readers

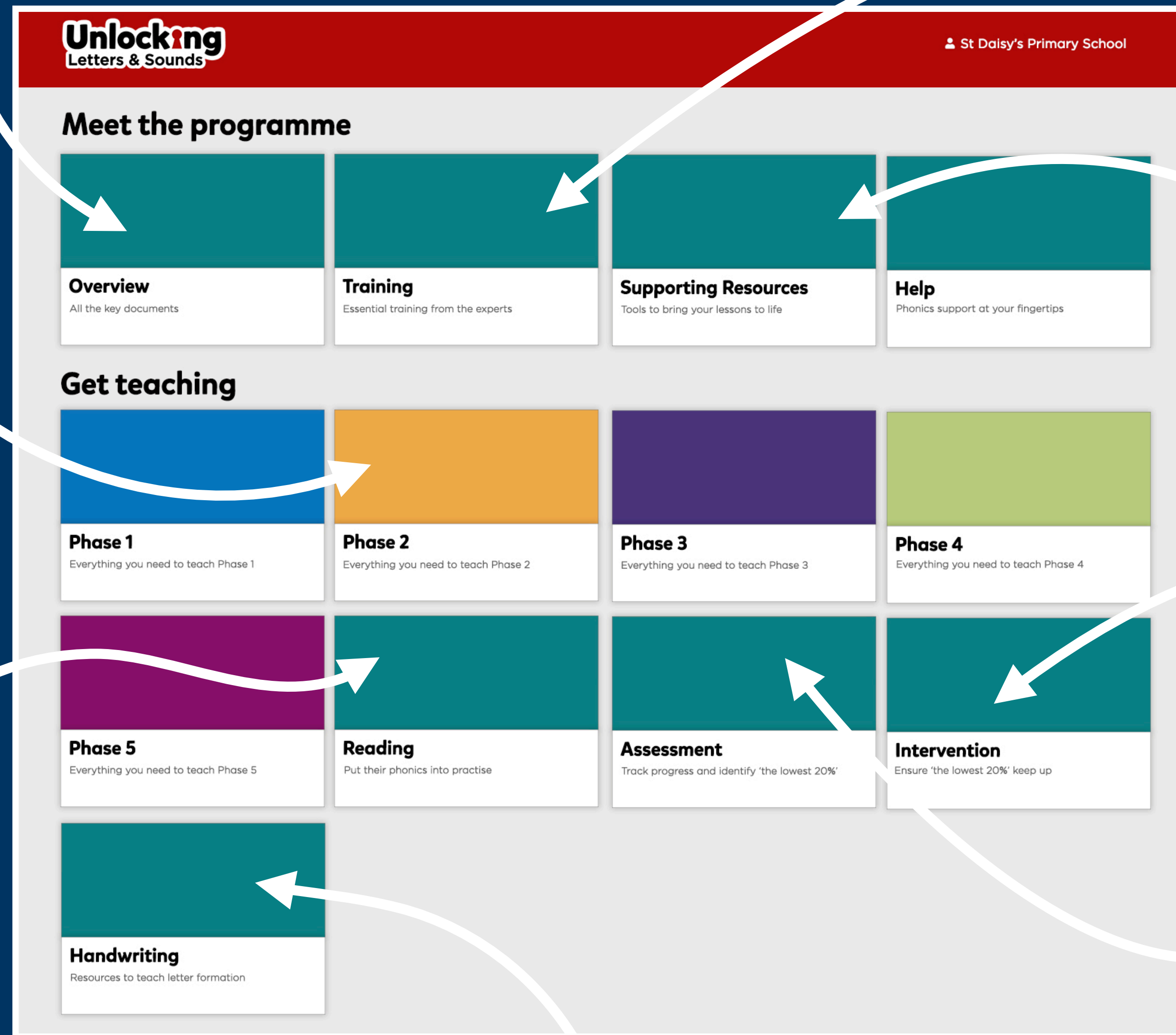
Pre-recorded training videos (from model lessons to 'how-to' videos)

Flashcards, sound mats and wall friezes to download and print

Interventions to ensure the lowest 20% keep up

Everything you need to carry out regular robust assessment

Handwriting patterns and guidance



# 2) CPD Training

Delivered by validated trainers, a range of ULS training packages are available.

- Build a team of expert reading teachers at your school
- Choice of online or face to face
- Termly 'Phonics Leaders Network' free to schools who access training

Has your school had L&S training delivered by an accredited English Hub?

Then no training is needed! You can simply sign your school up to a free 'update' session that will fully support your transition to ULS.



**Unlocking Letters & Sounds**

**Unlocking Letters and Sounds CPD Training Offer**

Training format	Intended delegate	Training description	Time commitment
Whole staff, one day, face-to-face training	Whole school staff, including Head Teacher and SLT	A comprehensive day of training, delivered in person by one of our validated trainers, who will take the delegates through all the key aspects of how to deliver, monitor and assess the <b>Unlocking Letters and Sounds</b> phonics programme. We will also offer up to 3 training places at an 'open session' during the academic year for new members of staff (included in the price).	One day
Whole staff, one day, online training	Whole school staff, including Head Teacher and SLT	A comprehensive day of online training, delivered by our validated trainers via Zoom, that will take the delegates through all the key aspects of how to deliver, monitor and assess the <b>Unlocking Letters and Sounds</b> phonics programme. We will also offer up to 3 training places at an 'open session' during the academic year for new members of staff (included in the price).	One day
Phonics/Reading Leader Network (online)	Phonics/Reading Leaders	A termly network to share information and support Phonics/Reading Leaders. This will also create a community of schools using <b>Unlocking Letters and Sounds</b> .	
Lowest 20%: assessment and intervention training (face to face or online)	Any staff involved in delivering phonics interventions	A shorter half-day training programme that will look in depth at effective assessment, analysis and supporting the lowest 20% in your school through high quality, targeted intervention.	
Reading Leaders training (face to face or online)	Phonics and Reading Leaders	Training specifically designed for those that lead reading/phonics around effectively monitoring excellent <b>Unlocking Letters and Sounds</b> practice and how to develop a robust coaching n within your school to ensure consistency and quality of phonics delivery.	
Unlocking Further Days	Phonics and Reading Leaders	A one-day, on-site visit by one of our accredited <b>Unlocking Letters and Sounds</b> trainers will work with your reading/phonics leader to review provision in school, support coaching training of staff and create a next step development plan.	



### 3) Fully Decodable Readers

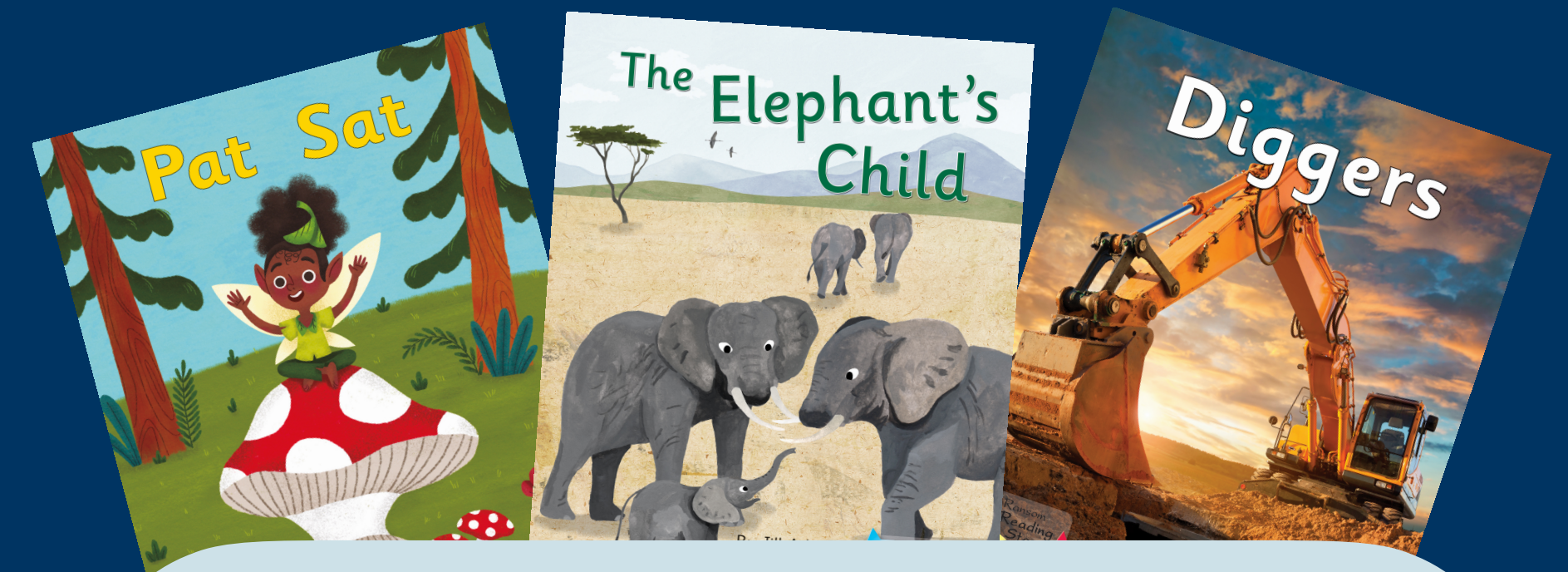
The popular Reading Stars Phonics books have been perfectly matched to the ULS progression on a week by week basis (even at Phase 5!)

- 154 titles available of the 225 planned  
– eventually giving schools at least two new books for every week of the programme
- Pre-prepared guided reading lesson plans for selected titles on the ULS platform



# 3) Fully Decodable Readers

- Fiction and non-fiction, as well as a variety of text types (familiar, unfamiliar, rhyme, funny, poignant), all supported by beautiful illustrations and photographs
- Real and rewarding reading experiences
  - the books never let the limitations of fully decodable language get in the way of stories and topics that will delight young readers
- Diverse stories, topics and characters that ensure that every child has the chance to 'find themselves' in the pages of the books



## Seeing is believing...

Digital Reading Stars Phonics samples - <https://www.ransom.co.uk/browse>

Free physical sample pack offer - <https://www.ransom.co.uk/reading-stars/phonics-sample-pack>

Testimonials from real schools - <https://www.ransom.co.uk/reading-stars/phonics/testimonials-and-case-studies>



## 4) Professionally Printed Resources

The ULS flashcards, sound mats and wall friezes are all available to download and print from our core online platform.

But, for schools who want to save time and ensure they have a strong ULS presence throughout their classroom, most of these resources are also available to buy professionally printed...

# 4) Professionally Printed Resources

## Flashcards

Colourful, robust flashcards to use as visual prompts and for reviewing GPCs (learned in Phase 2, 3 and 5a) and common exception words (learned across the phases).



## Wall Friezes

Two wall friezes are available, covering the letters learned in Phase 2 and Phase 3 together with the appropriate 'action image'. As the children move through each phase and learn new letters, each new letter can be added to the frieze, reflecting the children's growing knowledge. Our Phase 5 wall chart then shows the vowel sounds and consonant sounds (all phases) organised by sound family.

## Sound Mats

Sound mats are available for Phases 2 and 3 showing the letters covered together with the appropriate 'action image'. Our double-sided Phase 5 sound mats then show the vowel sounds and consonant sounds (all phases) organised by sound family.





# Buying Option One

## Easy buy 'starter' packs

- Carefully selected by the ULS team, these packs bundle the basics of each element of ULS together
- They're ideal for schools who want the 'whole package', who are on tighter budgets, and who are happy to have one central guided reading collection for their whole school

### 1 Form Entry Pack £3,740

1 x Subscription  
1 x Core CPD Training  
1 x Resource Pack  
1 x Guided Reading Book Pack  
1 x Independent Reading Book Pack

### 2 Form Entry Pack £5,323

1 x Subscription  
1 x Core CPD Training  
2 x Resource Pack  
1 x Guided Reading Book Pack  
2 x Independent Reading Book Pack

### 3 Form Entry Pack £6,906

1 x Subscription  
1 x Core CPD Training  
3 x Resource Pack  
1 x Guided Reading Book Pack  
3 x Independent Reading Book Pack

These are special prices for schools working with their local English Hub - the book packs work out at just £3.05 per book!

# Buying Option Two

Curate your school's dream SSP programme

Simply take out a core digital subscription,  
then choose what you would like from the  
following price lists...

## Core Digital Subscription

£300 annually (£250 for small schools)

Free until September 2022 for  
the first 300 schools to sign up



# CPD Training Price List

Training Format	Intended Delegate	Description	Time Commitment	Cost
Core Whole Staff ULS Training (face to face or online)	Whole school staff, including Head Teacher and SLT	A comprehensive day of training to take you through all the key aspects of delivering, monitoring and assessing ULS - and up to three training places at an 'open session' during the academic year for new members of staff.	One day	<b>£650 (plus any travel costs)</b>
Phonics Leader Network (online)	Phonics/Reading Leaders	A termly network to share information and support Phonics/Reading Leaders. Think 'a community of schools using ULS'.	1.5 hours three times in an academic year	<b>Free to schools who've accessed CPD training</b>
Lowest 20% Assessment and Intervention Training (face to face or online)	Any staff involved in delivering phonics interventions	A shorter training programme that will look in depth at effective assessment and analysis, as well as supporting the lowest 20% through high quality, targeted intervention.	Half day	<b>£75 per person (plus any travel costs)</b>
Reading Leaders Training (face to face or online)	Phonics/Reading Leaders	Specific training around effectively monitoring excellent ULS practice and developing a robust coaching model within your school.	One day	<b>£150 per person (plus any travel costs)</b>
Unlocking Further Success Days (face to face)	Phonics/Reading Leaders	A one-day site visit to help you review ULS provision in your school, support coaching/training of staff, and create a next step development plan.	One day	<b>£450 (plus travel costs)</b>

Get the full price list...

[https://www.ransom.co.uk/media/wysiwyg/UPDATED\\_ULS\\_CPD\\_Offer.pdf](https://www.ransom.co.uk/media/wysiwyg/UPDATED_ULS_CPD_Offer.pdf)

# Reading Stars Phonics Price List

Pack	Description	Price
ULS Guided Reading Pack	Six copies of 66 titles (Phases 2 to 5) for which there are pre-prepared guided reading lesson plans on the ULS platform.	(396 books) <b>£1,207</b>
ULS Independent Reading Pack	Varying quantities of 132 Reading Stars Phonics titles across Phases 2 to 5, prioritising the titles you need more of. Get in touch for a specific contents list. Please note this pack will re-include the titles in the Guided Reading Pack.	(458 books) <b>£1397</b>
Reading Stars Phonics Independent Reading Pack	One copy of every title in the programme, minus those included in the above Guided Reading Pack	P2 to 5 (67 books) <b>£204.35</b> P1 to 5 (88 books) <b>£268.40</b>
Reading Stars Phonics Complete Pack	One copy of every title in the programme	P2 to 5 (133 books) <b>£405.65</b> P1 to 5 (154 books) <b>£469.70</b>
Reading Stars Phonics Complete 6-Pack	Six copies of every title in the programme	P2 to 5 (798 books) <b>£2,433.90</b> P1 to 5 (924 books) <b>£2,818.20</b>
Reading Stars Phonics Bespoke Packs	For schools who cannot fully adopt Reading Stars Phonics, we're happy to pull together packs that fill specific 'gaps' in their phonics book collections	<b>Get in touch!</b>
Reading Stars Phonics Digital Library Subscription	All Reading Stars Phonics titles (Phases 1 to 5) available as ebooks on your ULS platform	<b>£300 a year</b>

These are special prices for schools working with their local English Hub - they work out at just **£3.05 per book!**



# Printed Resources Price List

Product	Description	Price
Unlocking Letters and Sounds Resource Pack	One of each of the below products	£186 (price includes a 25% discount)
Grapheme Cards Phase 2 and 3	49 cards, A6	£24.99
Grapheme Cards Phase 5a	19 cards, A6	£17.99
Large Grapheme Cards Phase 2 and 3	49 cards, A4	£44.99
CEW Cards Phase 2 to 5	57 cards, A6	£34.99
Wall Frieze Phase 2	23 friezes, A4	£19.99
Wall Frieze Phase 3	28 friezes, A4	£19.99
Wall Chart Phase 5	1 copy, A1	£19.99
Sound Mats Phase 2	30 copies, A4	£19.99
Sound Mats Phase 3	30 copies, A4	£19.99
Sound Mats Phase 5	30 copies, A4	£24.99

# The Ordering Process

- ULS orders are placed through Ransom Publishing – our details are as follows

Ransom Publishing Ltd.  
Unit 7 Brocklands Farm  
West Meon  
Hamshire  
GU32 1JN  
[orders@ransom.co.uk](mailto:orders@ransom.co.uk)  
01730 829 091

- We invoice orders on dispatch – the payment terms are 30 days from date of invoice.
- Any supplier forms that need completing can be emailed to [orders@ransom.co.uk](mailto:orders@ransom.co.uk).

- We are happy to supply formal quotes – and when it comes to matched funding, we can always split these quotes across two invoices. Just get in touch with instructions.
- The Reading Stars Phonics prices shown in this presentation are for schools who're working with their local English Hub – they work out at just £3.05 per book!
- If a school is one of the first 300 to sign up to ULS – spaces going quickly! – they will be invoiced for their subscription with a 100% discount. They will then be contacted in July to see if they'd like to continue with their subscription come September.



# Useful Links

- View digital samples of the Reading Stars Phonics readers <https://www.ransom.co.uk/browse>
- Information on our our free physical Reading Stars Phonics Sample Pack <https://www.ransom.co.uk/reading-stars/phonics-sample-pack>
- Watch an extract of an ULS Phase 2 lesson <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bdfdV3A9luY>