

Phonics information evening



Success for All 
Phonics



tree



Exploring common exception words (red words)

he

you

Red words (common exception words) are words that do not follow the common phonetic spelling rules children learn in their first few years in school.

These are also called tricky words or sight words as you must learn to recognise them, and can't sound them out. They aren't decodable using the normal rules and letter-sounds in phonics.

said

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Many of these exception words are used frequently in English, hence the use of 'common' in the name. Children are normally introduced to common exception words in their first year of primary school, and will learn more as they progress through KSI.

At Cookridge Holy Trinity, as well as teaching these words at school, we encourage children to learn these words at home.

Red words (common exception words)

Ideas to help your child at home:

- Try a little practice every day with your little one: 10 minutes at a time should be enough. You might want to focus on one word at a time. Could be during breakfast, on the bus, while they get dressed.
- It's a good idea to play games to make the learning of phonics more fun for your child: how about bingo or matching up games? You could also use the words as part of a treasure hunt: hide five tricky words around the house and ask your little one to find them from a list, ticking them off as they search.
- Display the tricky words at home, such as on the wall or on the fridge. This can help your child to understand that the words are important. You could take the time to explain this to your child.
- Encourage your child to discover tricky words in everyday reading – in signs, food packaging or notices in the supermarket. You can reinforce this during bedtime reading too, asking your child to pick out a specific tricky word that you've practising together. If you are reading for your child – see if they can find the tricky word on that page or even decode one word using their phonics.
- Why not invest in a whiteboard and marker to make learning the words more enjoyable? It'll probably be a welcome change for your child from pen and paper.
- There are lots of tricky words songs online and singing is usually a great way to embed new words