As I prepare for the publication of the second edition of *Phonics for Pupils with Special Educational Needs*, I have been reflecting on how I can make the programme, and the training that supports it, more accessible to schools, organisations and individuals.

My hope has always been that *Phonics for SEN* will help as many children and young people with access needs as possible to learn to read and write. I know that budgets are often stretched, and I want to do what I can to ensure that the cost of training does not become a barrier to using the programme effectively.

With this in mind, I have made the decision to include the training within the new Teacher's Manual, rather than offer it as a separate package at an additional cost.

This is something I feel strongly about. I want everyone who chooses to use *Phonics for SEN* to have access to the knowledge, guidance and practical support they need to teach with confidence, without having to find additional funds for training.

Above all, I want to make it easier for more teachers and practitioners to use the programme, so that more children can have the opportunity to become readers and writers.

How will the training work?

The training will be available through a series of videos, accessed remotely using QR codes in the Teacher's Manual. There will also be links to additional videos demonstrating the teaching activities and tasks in practice.

There are around 12 hours of training videos altogether, covering everything from the Science of Reading and the research underpinning the programme to the practicalities of teaching blending, segmenting, phoneme manipulation, the alphabetic code, multisyllable words and morphology. The training also explores how to teach learners with complex needs, alongside assessment, planning, delivery and maintaining fidelity to the programme. Supporting resources and materials for assessment and planning are included in the Teacher's Manual.

For schools, groups and organisations, I recommend appointing a lead teacher or member of staff to coordinate the training. Ideally, this person would watch the videos in advance, organise the sessions and help facilitate discussions and activities as everyone works through the training together.

To make things easier, the Teacher's Manual will also include a Study Guide, which provides a step-by-step route through the training. Whether you're working through it on your own or as part of a group, the guide will take you through the relevant reading, videos and practical activities, with opportunities to pause, reflect, discuss ideas and consider how to put what you've learnt into practice.

The aim is to make the training flexible, manageable and easy to follow, so that everyone can work through it at a pace and in a way that suits them best.

And, of course, I won't be disappearing! If you would like some extra help, have questions or want to talk through particular aspects of implementing the programme, I'll still be available for Zoom consultations, arranged at a small hourly fee.

Above all, I want everyone to feel that they have the knowledge, resources and support they need to get the very best from *Phonics for SEN*.

What's new in the second edition?

In preparing this second edition, I have taken the opportunity to revisit the research underpinning the programme, review recent developments in literacy instruction and reflect on the valuable feedback received from those using *Phonics for Pupils with Special Educational Needs* in practice.

As a result, several aspects of the programme have been expanded, new materials and resources have been introduced, and some existing content has been updated or removed to reflect current evidence and understanding.

The overall aim of the programme remains unchanged: to provide a comprehensive, practical and reliable resource, grounded in research and effective teaching practice, that enables learners of all ages with a wide range of additional needs to access high-quality literacy instruction and experience success in reading, spelling and writing.

The main changes in the 2nd edition are outlined below.

Changes to the structure of the programme

- A new Teacher's Manual (Book 8) brings together all the guidance needed to understand, plan and deliver the programme. This replaces the *Working through the Programme* sections previously included at the beginning of Books 1–7.
- Books 1–7 are now dedicated entirely to teaching resources and activities, with the accompanying Teacher's Manual providing the guidance needed to use them effectively.
- A new Study Guide, included in the Teacher's Manual, provides a structured, step-by-step approach to working through the programme. It highlights key information, directs readers to relevant sections and activities, and provides opportunities to practise important teaching strategies.
- Training videos and practical demonstrations, accessed through QR codes in the Teacher's Manual, support the development of effective teaching practice. These

include training on the research and principles underpinning the programme, as well as demonstrations of key techniques and activities.

- This flexible approach to professional development allows individuals to work through the training independently or schools and organisations to organise collaborative learning sessions. The Study Guide and videos support a 'book study' approach, encouraging discussion, reflection and the practical application of learning. By incorporating training directly into the Teacher's Manual, professional development becomes more accessible without the need to purchase a separate training package.

Changes to teaching resources and activities

- A new consolidation phase in Book 1 provides an opportunity to strengthen pupils' understanding of a small number of phonemes and their corresponding graphemes before moving on. This phase also introduces capital letters and sentence building, allowing pupils to begin applying their developing knowledge to reading and writing simple sentences.
- The removal of standalone oral phonemic awareness activities from Books 1–4 reflects changes to the structure and approach of the programme.
- New and expanded teaching resources provide additional support in three important areas:
    - *Sentence building and syntax* – developing an understanding of how words are combined to create meaningful sentences.
    - *Reading fluency* – developing accuracy, automaticity and appropriate expression and intonation.
    - *Morphology* – developing an understanding of the meaningful parts of words and how these contribute to word structure and meaning.
- The Teacher's Manual includes practical guidance on adapting teaching and activities to meet the needs of learners with a wide range of additional needs, including those with complex communication, sensory and physical disabilities. There are supporting resources and materials available in the Teacher's Manual.
- A suite of assessment materials supports the identification of pupils' existing knowledge and skills, informs teaching decisions and helps monitor progress. Alternative access versions are included for learners who are non-speaking and/or have physical disabilities.

- Improvements to the presentation and organisation of resources include the adoption of conventional phonemic notation, a change of font in response to feedback from users, and revised numbering to improve consistency across the programme and make planning and navigation easier.

What are the costs?

The estimated cost of the complete set of seven Activity Books plus the Teacher's Manual is £315.

There are no ongoing subscription or licence fees, none at all! Once you've purchased the books, you have everything you need to deliver the programme, including access to all the training videos and supporting resources. There are no annual subscriptions, licence fees or additional training costs.

If schools and organisations would like a little extra support, I'm always happy to arrange a Zoom meeting to answer questions, discuss implementation or help with any particular challenges. There would just be a small per hour consultancy fee for this, agreed in advance.

What about Decodable Readers?

There is a collection of 40 Phonics for SEN decodable readers that follow the progression of the programme. These are available in six collected volumes, each priced between £8 and £18 each on Amazon. The full collection of 40 readers costs £80, making them a relatively affordable addition to the programme.

Looking ahead

I'm hoping that the 2nd edition will be published in January or February 2027. With the updated Teacher's Manual, integrated training and Study Guide, I think it will be well worth the wait!

I am enormously grateful to the many researchers, teachers and practitioners whose work, experiences and feedback have helped shape this second edition. In particular, the insights shared by those already using the programme with learners every day have been invaluable in identifying where changes and additions could make a real difference.

My hope is that this updated edition will not only provide the practical guidance and resources needed to teach literacy effectively, but also encourage continued reflection, discussion and professional learning.

Above all, I hope it will help more teachers and practitioners feel confident in their teaching and, most importantly, enable more learners with complex additional needs to experience the achievement, independence and opportunities that literacy can bring.