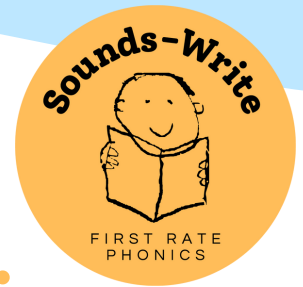
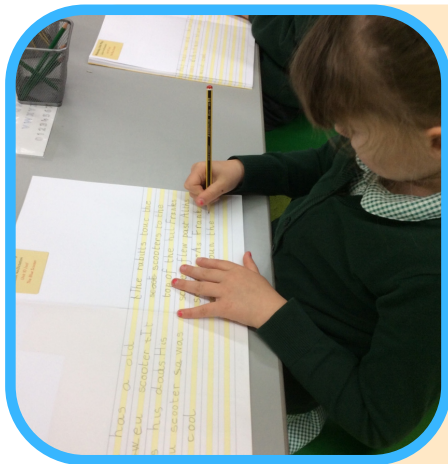


# 'It has made a big difference to our end of KS2 spelling results'

Attenborough School, Germany, June 2023



We spoke to Amy Cunningham, English Lead, Year 1 Phonics and Year 5 & 6 teacher at Attenborough School, a British Forces school in Germany, about their experience of implementing Sounds-Write.



- 🐡 School: **Attenborough School**
- 🐡 Location: **Sennelager, Germany**
- 🐡 Pupils on roll: **52**
- 🐡 Age range: **3-11**
- 🐡 Special Educational Needs: **23%**

## Why did you choose Sounds-Write?

Launching as a new school in September 2019, we had the opportunity to design our own curriculum and to choose a phonics scheme that was the most appropriate for our learners. By adopting the Appreciative Inquiry model, we worked collectively to explore several phonics schemes. We were impressed by the use of research to support phonics that only Sounds-Write could offer. We also recognised the significance of teaching phonics and spelling in Key Stage 2 and found that no other phonics scheme provided a comprehensive way of doing this. We were also impressed by the tremendous results and impact of Sounds-Write that we saw on a visit to Three Bridges, an outstanding school in Southall, London.

## How did you implement Sounds-Write?

After completing the training in February 2022, we began to trial Sounds-Write straight away with our EYFS and Year 1 learners. The children quickly became used to the structure of the sessions, and we saw pleasing outcomes. In September 2022, we began to implement Sounds-Write as a whole school, with every class taking part in daily 30-minute sessions in the Early Years and Key Stage 1, and three 15-minute sessions throughout the week in Key Stage 2.

## How did you find the training and support provided by Sounds-Write?

The training explained in detail the linguistic phonic approach and how children are biologically primed to hear sound, which made complete sense! Delivering the lesson scripts with fidelity was an immense part of the training, along with the emphasis on error correction and the use of physical gestures and modelling. The support provided by the Sounds-Write team since our training has been excellent. Being in a remote location, outside of the UK, the ongoing offer of professional development opportunities is unlike any other.



SoundsWritePhonics



@SWLiteracy



sounds\_write



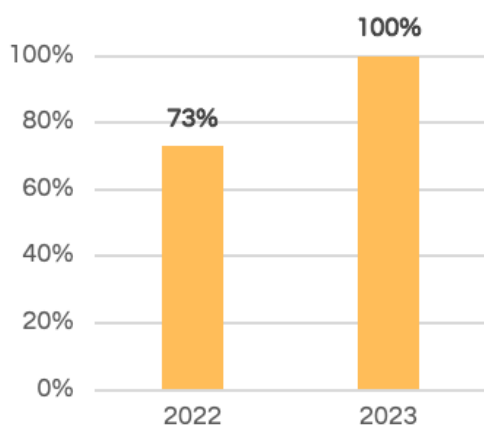
sounds-write.com



## What impact has Sounds-Write had on pupil progress?

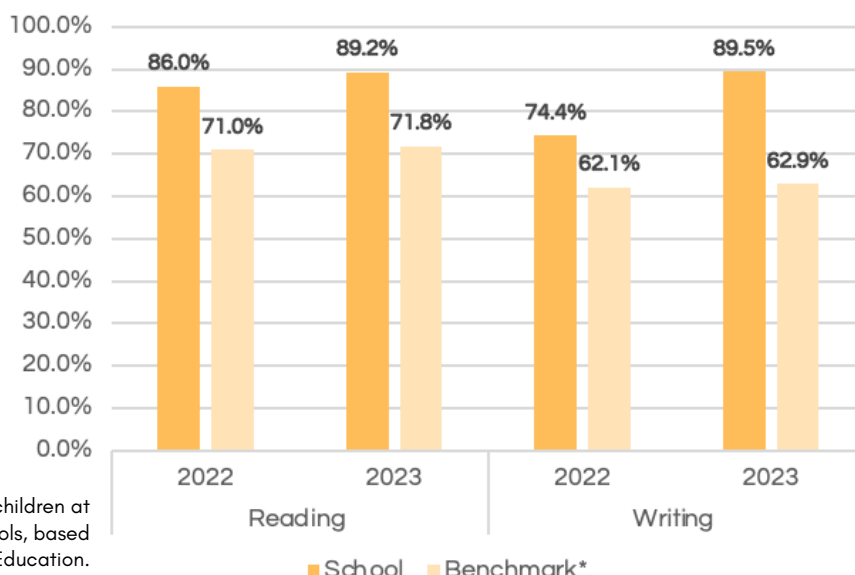
As a British Forces school, we have many children joining us at different times in the year, as well as children who have joined us from German kindergartens with little or no knowledge of phonics; outcomes for these children are impressive in quite a short space of time. Our pupils make fast progress in reading and writing across the whole school, and in writing we have noticed that as the cognitive load associated with spelling has reduced, children are able to give more focus to their composition.

### Phonics Screening Check



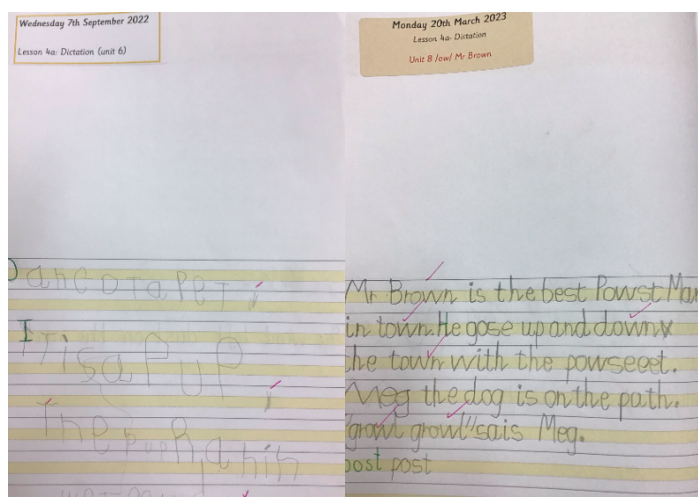
\*Benchmark is the average percentage of children at or above expected standard in 6500 UK schools, based on teacher assessments provided by Juniper Education.

### Teacher assessment\* (Y1-6 average)



## What has been the reaction from the children and parents to the adoption of the Sounds-Write programme?

The children are engaged in lessons and are making excellent progress. They enjoy the consistency of the sessions, and they have the confidence to build on their skills. The reduction in cognitive load provided by the lesson scripts gives the children a greater chance of success. Children in the Early Years and Key Stage 1 are more independent with their reading, as they have learned the necessary skills of segmenting, blending and phoneme manipulation. Key Stage 2 learners enjoy being taught in a way that they haven't experienced before, focusing on the etymology and morphology in polysyllabic words – it has made a big difference to our end of KS2 spelling results.



Progress in writing dictation in Year 1, September to March

## What would you say to other schools about the Sounds-Write programme?

Sounds-Write is a highly effective phonics scheme which teaches children the skills and knowledge to become effective and independent readers. At Attenborough, we have seen rapid progress in our reading, spelling and writing outcomes and will welcome anyone to come and see how effective Sounds-Write is.

