

## THRASS at Sawyers Valley Primary School:

At Sawyers Valley we use the THRASS methodology to teach synthetic phonics and spelling. This approach recognises the importance of children learning how to write words that are meaningful to their everyday life and learning experiences. It is important that the children learn the names of all of the letters of the alphabet. We develop the mindset that the letter names are constant but in a word they can make different sounds (phonemes). It is also very important that children hear individual sounds (phonemes) in words and can say these orally. The THRASS chart identifies each of the 44 phonemes in the Australian Standard English language and uses pictorial cues to help the children learn the different ways we can spell these in words. In K/PP we familiarise the children with the chart and the pictorial cues along with providing many opportunities for the children to learn the letters of the alphabet and hear/break down (segment) phonemes in words. We begin to encourage the children to use the THRASS chart as a tool to help them to write words as they attempt to match the phonemes they hear to the symbolic representation in print. This continues in Year 1 and 2, as the children become more proficient in these skills they begin to progress from the phonetic spelling of words (not always spelt correctly but as it sounds) to the more conventional way of spelling words.

We use a range of techniques and activities to explicitly teach phonics through THRASS and throughout the coming weeks while your child is learning from home we will be posting some activities that you can do with your children. We have attached a digital copy of the THRASS chart which we have been given permission to use with our online learning activities. Please note there are strict copyright rules that must be adhered to as stated on the chart.

The following is a link to the THRASS website that we will guide you through as we upload activities over the coming weeks.

<https://www.thrass.com.au/>