

# Monster Phonics

Dear Parents,

We are pleased to inform you that we are now using Monster Phonics, a DfE validated phonics scheme.

## What is Monster Phonics?

The 26 letters of the alphabet and combinations of these letters make 44 speech sounds in English. The 44 sounds (phonemes) are spelt by 144 different letter combinations (graphemes). For example, the sound A is spelt several different ways, including ay (play) and ai (train).

Traditional ways of learning to read and spell can be time-consuming and for some children they are ineffective. Monster Phonics teaches children to read by enabling them to identify the individual graphemes (letter combinations) and blend the sounds (phonemes) together to read the word.

To support this process, Monster Phonics uses 10 monsters to categorise all sounds into 10 simple areas. Furthermore, each monster has a different colour and that colour represents that way of spelling the sound.

Monster Phonics makes learning fun and more memorable. Rather than relying on rote learning, Monster Phonics uses colour-coding to promote understanding, which leads to children becoming confident, independent learners. We teach Monster Phonics through songs, games and activities which are consistent for learning and building confidence in reading and spelling.

Find out more about how Monster Phonics works watch the video link below.

Visit <https://monsterphonics.com/how-it-works>



## Reading Books

All children from Reception to Year Two will have access to fully decodable, online books as their primary home reading book. These books contain the letters, sounds and words that they have been taught. This means that the book is consistent with your child's phonics knowledge. Your child's class teacher will write the book stage, number, title and date as usual in the reading diary and you can comment on their reading progress in the box provided. The children will also have a banded book to bring home which will be useful for extending their vocabulary, comprehension and understanding of story structure, but this will always be alongside a decodable book until pupils have completed phonics. You can support and read this book together with your child. The children also have the opportunity to visit the school library and bring home a book they have chosen to read for pleasure.

Below is the link to create an account and access the fully decodable EBooks. We will also add this information and link to Google Classroom.

<https://monsterphonics.com/register/ebooks-whole-scheme/?ca=4c828208dc0f001fb0650c13d64b1fb7>

After creating an account, look in your child's reading diary to find the year group, stage and book number to be read that week. There is further guidance about decodable reading on the EBook's home page.

You can start reading your books straight away!

Here are a few suggestions to help you get started.

How to read Monster Phonics books:

1. Before reading the story, look at the pictures and talk about what the story might be about. Use this as an opportunity to highlight and discuss any unknown vocabulary.
2. Practise reading the words in the tables at the start of the book. Read these in a fun way by reading the words in different directions or by reading similar looking words first, such as cake, take, and rake. Read the 'wow' words. These encourage your child to use interesting vocabulary in their own writing.
3. Enjoy the story together. Your child may need more or less support to read. In each book, colour highlights the focus spelling (grapheme). Monster Phonics also uses colour to help children to read high-frequency words (common words such as 'when' and 'said') with fluency. You will find that the colour is dropped from the word once that spelling has been taught.
4. After reading the story, there are a set of questions to ask your child. In Year 1 and 2 books, these appear at the end of the book. In Reception books, they appear at the start under 'Things to think about before reading the story'. Each Reception book also has an optional section for an adult to read at the bottom of each page. This text is not critical for the understanding of the story but adds further detail to bring the story to life.

Kind regards

Mrs Thompson

English Coordinator