



Monster Phonics Fun at Home!

This leaflet is designed to help you understand how we teach reading and writing at school, and how you can support your child's phonics journey at home.

What is Phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read and write by connecting sounds (phonemes) with letters (graphemes). It helps children to:

- **Decode** (sound out) words.
- **Blend** sounds together to read words.
- **Segment** words into individual sounds for spelling.

How We Teach Phonics at School:

We follow Monster Phonics from Nursery to Year 2. This is a structured phonics scheme that typically progresses through these phases:

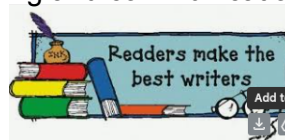
- **Phase 1 (Nursery):** Focuses on developing listening skills, environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body percussion, rhythm, rhyme, alliteration, and voice sounds. There is also a pre-phase 2 section where the first sounds are introduced.
- **Phase 2 (Reception):** Introduces letter sounds (phonemes) and their corresponding letters (graphemes). Children learn to blend and segment simple CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words like "cat," "dog," and "sun."
- **Phase 3 (Reception):** Introduces more graphemes, including digraphs (two letters making one sound, e.g., "sh," "ch," "th") and trigraphs (three letters making one sound, e.g., "igh," "ear"). Children learn to read and spell more complex words.
- **Phase 4 (Reception/Year 1):** Focuses on consolidating previously learned graphemes and blending and segmenting longer words with adjacent consonants (e.g., "stop," "plant").
- **Phase 5 (Year 1):** Introduces alternative graphemes for vowel sounds (e.g., "ai," "ay," "a-e" all making the /ai/ sound). Children learn to choose the correct grapheme for spelling.
- **Phase 6 (Year 2):** Focuses on spelling rules, prefixes, suffixes, and learning to read and spell longer and more complex words.

How You Can Help at Home:

- **Talk about sounds:** Encourage your child to listen to the sounds around them. "Can you hear the birds chirping?"
- **Sing nursery rhymes and songs:** These help develop listening and rhyming skills.
- **Play sound games:**
 - **I Spy:** "I spy with my little eye something beginning with /c/."
 - **Robot talk:** Say words in a segmented way, then ask your child to blend them. "c-a-t... cat!"
- **Practice letter sounds:** Use flashcards or create your own.
- **Use the correct pronunciation of phonemes:** Avoid adding an "uh" sound to consonants. For example, say /c/ not "cuh."
- **Focus on blending:** Help your child to blend sounds together smoothly.
- **Segment for spelling:** When spelling, ask your child to say the word and then break it into its individual sounds. Use magnets or write individual sounds on pieces of paper and build the word together.
- **Encourage writing:** Early mark making and drawing shapes will emerge into clearer drawings, letters, words and eventually sentences.
- **READ!** Bedtime stories, magazines and non-fiction books that follow your child's interests all count!
- **Read your Monster Phonics Reading book together at home!** When your child is given a Monster Phonics reading book from school please aim to read this everyday. Reading just a few pages together everyday will really make a difference and support them in their reading journey. Please record any reading that you do together in your child's reading diary.

Did you know that reading at home together has so many benefits?

Reading together at home develops your child's imagination, creativity, empathy, relationships, mental wellbeing, speech, language, understanding and communication, writing skills and more! Reading helps your child to develop holistically.



Please check out the Monster Phonics Website and the parent support section for information about upcoming parent webinars and resources to support you and your child at home.

<https://monsterphonics.com/phonics-support-for-parents/>

Remember: Every child learns at their own pace. Be patient, supportive, and celebrate their progress!

If you would like any further support, ideas or would like to discuss your child's reading development further please speak to your child's class teacher. We would be happy to help.

Thank you for your continued support.