



Phonics Workshop for Parents

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Aims of the session:

- To learn more about phonics, and demystify some of the language around this
- To familiarise you with our phonics scheme and the 'Year 1 Phonics Screening Check'
- To signpost resources you could use at home to support your child's learning.



What is Phonics?

The **26 letters** of the alphabet and combinations of these letters make **44 sounds** in English.

These **44 sounds (phonemes)** are spelt by **144 different letter combinations (graphemes)**.

For example: The **long A** sound is spelt in different ways **ay** (play), **ai** (train), **a_e** (late), **eigh** (eight)

Technical Vocabulary

A **phoneme** is the smallest unit of sound in a word. A phoneme may be represented by 1, 2, 3 or 4 letters.

Eg. s a t ai igh

Technical Vocabulary

A **syllable** is a word or part of a word that contains one vowel sound. E.g. 1 syllable = **Cat**

2 syllable = **bas/ket** **let/ter**

Technical Vocabulary

A **grapheme** is the letter(s) representing a phoneme. Written representation of a sound which may consist of 1 or more letters eg. The phoneme 's' can be represented by the grapheme **se (mouse), c (city), sc or ce (science)**

Technical Vocabulary

A **digraph** is two letters, which make one sound.

- A consonant digraph contains two consonants

sh th ck ll

- A vowel digraph contains at least one vowel

ai ee ar oy

Technical Vocabulary

A **split digraph** is a digraph in which the two letters are not adjacent (e.g. **ma**ke)

A **trigraph** is three letters, which make one sound.

E.g. **igh** **dge**

Technical Vocabulary

Oral Blending – hearing a series of spoken sounds and merging them together to make a spoken word (no text is used) for example, when a teacher calls out ‘**p-a-t**’, the children say **pat**.

Blending – recognising the letter sounds in a written word, for example **c-u-p**, and merging or synthesising them in the order in which they are written to pronounce the word ‘**cup**’.

Why have we chosen this programme?

- Monster Phonics is a DfE validated programme.
- It is a highly-engaging, structured, synthetic phonics programme.
- It has resources for every grapheme and spelling rule taught in Reception and the Key Stage 1 National Curriculum.
- The innovative and highly advanced multisensory approach supports all children to learn phonics in a memorable, fun and engage way.
- The approach helps children learn difficult long vowels, silent letters and tricky words that frequently cause problems for children.
- It also provides support with pronunciation.



How does it work?

Monster Phonics uses colour coding to promote understanding, which leads to children becoming confident, independent learners.

Monster Phonics categorises sounds into 10 areas. There are 10 different monsters, each a different colour, that represent these sounds and the different ways of spelling the sound.

Meet the Monsters!



Angry Red A
 makes the **A** sound.
 made day rain



Green Froggy
 makes the **E** sound.
 tree happy dream



Yellow I
 makes the **I** sound.
 my time find



Miss Oh No
 makes the **O** sound.
 soap note row



U-Hoo
 makes the **U** sound.
 cute few uniform



Cool Blue
 makes the **oo** sound.
 room fruit soup



Brown Owl
 makes the **ow** sound.
 down out



The Silent Ghosts
 are the silent letters,
 they make no sound.
 when friend know



Tricky Witch
 casts spells on gold letters
 to change their sound.
 wants said love



The Black Cats
 are the phonetic letters.
 black cat went

How do the monsters help with spelling words?

Linking the sound with the colour helps children to remember the spelling.

Games, songs and activities are continuously used in school to support with spellings.

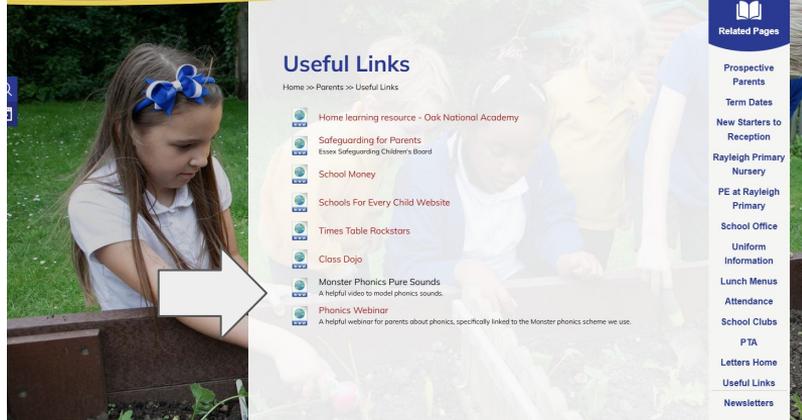
How to articulate the sounds



Reception - Pure Speech Sounds



Year 1 - Pure Speech Sounds



Useful Links

Home >> Parents >> Useful Links

-  Home learning resource - Oak National Academy
-  Safeguarding for Parents
Essex Safeguarding Children's Board
-  School Money
-  Schools For Every Child Website
-  Times Table Rockstars
-  Class Dojo
-  Monster Phonics Pure Sounds
A helpful video to model phonics sounds.
-  Phonics Webinar
A helpful webinar for parents about phonics, specifically linked to the Monster phonics scheme we use.

Related Pages

- Prospective Parents
- Term Dates
- New Starters to Reception
- Rayleigh Primary Nursery
- PE at Rayleigh Primary
- School Office
- Uniform Information
- Lunch Menus
- Attendance
- School Clubs
- PTA
- Letters Home
- Useful Links
- Newsletters



Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

The phonics screening check contains 40 words divided into two sections of 20 words. There are real words and pseudo-words.

Pseudo-words are words that are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning. They are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using their phonics skills.

All pseudo-words in the check are accompanied by a picture of an imaginary creature. Children are taught that when a word has a creature next to it, it is a pseudo-word. This ensures that they are not trying to match the pseudo-word to a word in their vocabulary.

The check is designed to give teachers information on how your child is progressing in phonics. It will help to identify whether your child needs additional support at this stage, so that they do not fall behind in this vital early reading skill.

There are 40 words and the pass mark is usually 32/40.

The check will take place the week commencing June 8th 2025- straight after the June half term.

| Practice sheet: Real words | Practice sheet: Pseudo words |
|----------------------------|---|
| in | ot  |
| at | vap  |
| beg | osk  |
| sum | ect  |

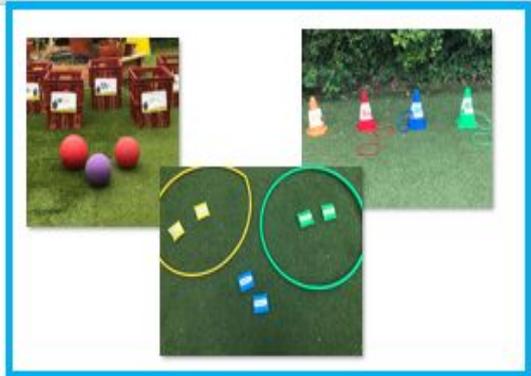
How to help at home:

Little and often, fun!

E-books - log in coming soon!

Monster Phonics App

Flashcards of HFQ



Additional free resources you could use:

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phonics-screening-check-2025-materials>

Activities: <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/2/buried-treasure>

Games: <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>



Tricky Words and Sight Words Song



Phase 3 Tricky Words Song
Say Hello To

