Howardian Primary School

An Introduction to Monster Phonics at Howardian Primary School

Parent Workshop

Friday 6th November 2026

Howardian Primary School

Monster Phonics at Howardian

Our school has chosen Monster Phonics as our Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) programme to teach early reading and spelling.

Early Reading in Nursery

In Nursery, phonics expectations focus on phase 1 pre-phonic skills, concentrating on listening, attention, and spoken language rather than formal letter-sound reading.

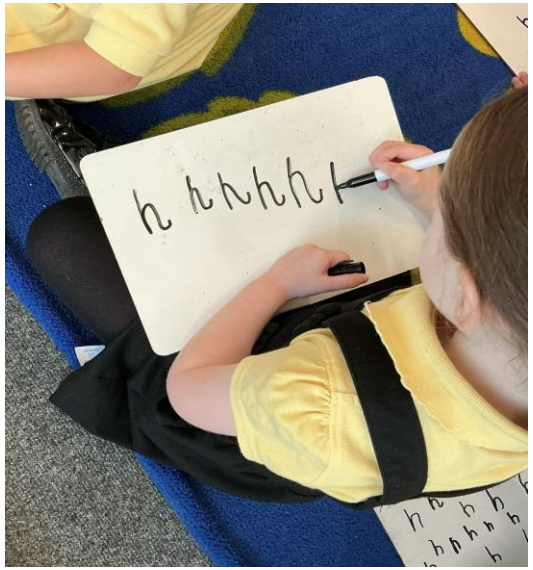
- Environmental & sound discrimination
- Rhyme & rhythm
- Alliteration & initial sounds
- Voice sounds
- Oral blending & segmenting



Pupils engage in a range of rich high-quality stories which provide them with opportunities to build on their vocabulary and develop their oracy skills.

What is Phonics?

Making connections between the sounds of our spoken words and the letters that are used to write them down.







Terminology

Phoneme - The smallest unit of sound in a word
Grapheme - The written representation of a phoneme
Digraph - Two letters that make one sound e.g. chip
Trigraph - Three letters that make one sound e.g. night
Split vowel digraph - A long vowel sound made by two letters that are separated by a consonant e.g. a-e cake
Blend - Merging individual phonemes (sounds) together to make a word c-a-t cat
Segment - Splitting a word up into its individual phonemes then writing a word by representing each phoneme with a grapheme

The Monster Phonics System

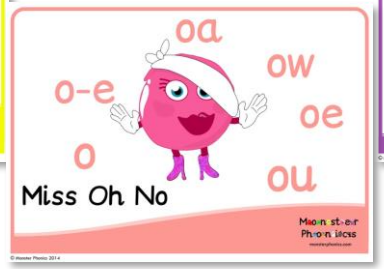
10 monsters were created, each with their own colour to support with learning the link between the letter sound and the written letter.

Long Vowels Sounds







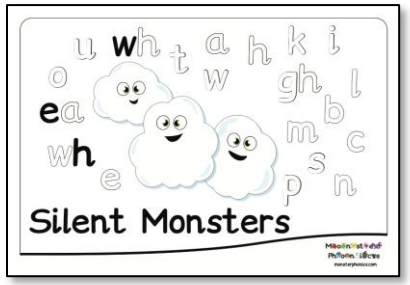








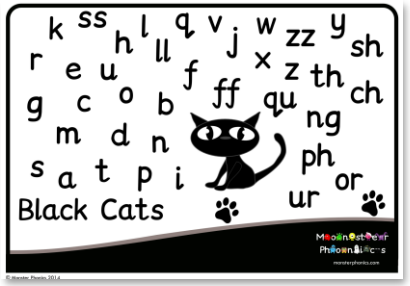
Silent Letters



Tricky Letters



Phonetic



Meet the Monsters



Colour Coding

Colour Coding helps children remember and recall grapheme-phoneme correspondences.

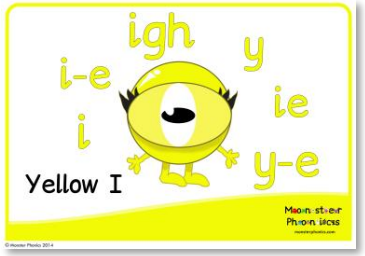
deep → deep →



rain → rain →



light → light →

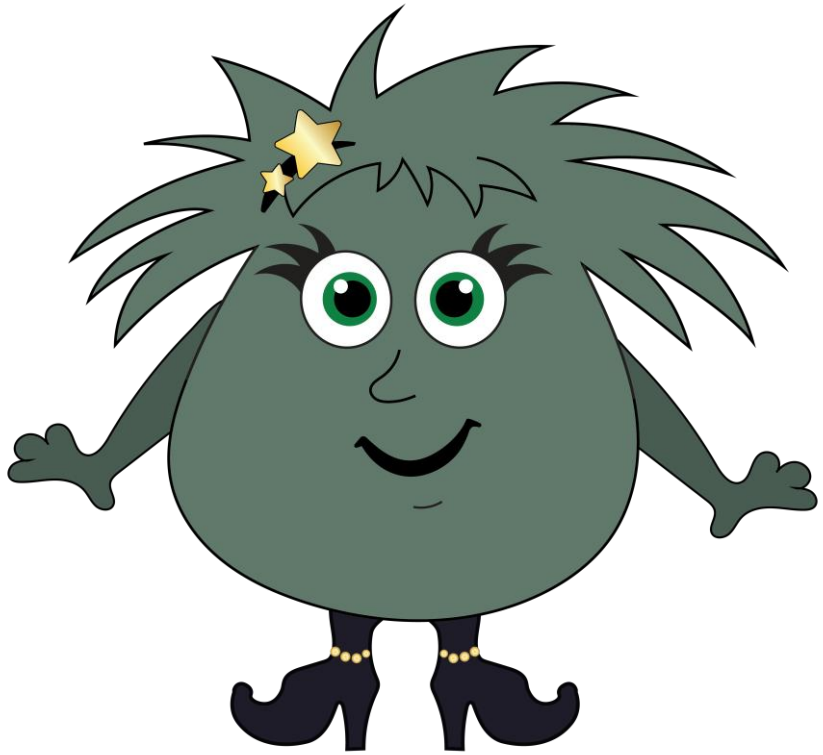


High Frequency Words



- Words that occur most frequently in print
- Grouped and colour coded
- Builds confidence, fluency and independence
- Monster Phonics teaches 300 HFWs as part of the programme

Common Exception Words



said

want the

We call these words 'tricky' words because they do not follow the standard phonics rules the children are learning. These words often have irregular spellings or sounds that cannot be easily decoded using the phonics strategies children typically use for other words.

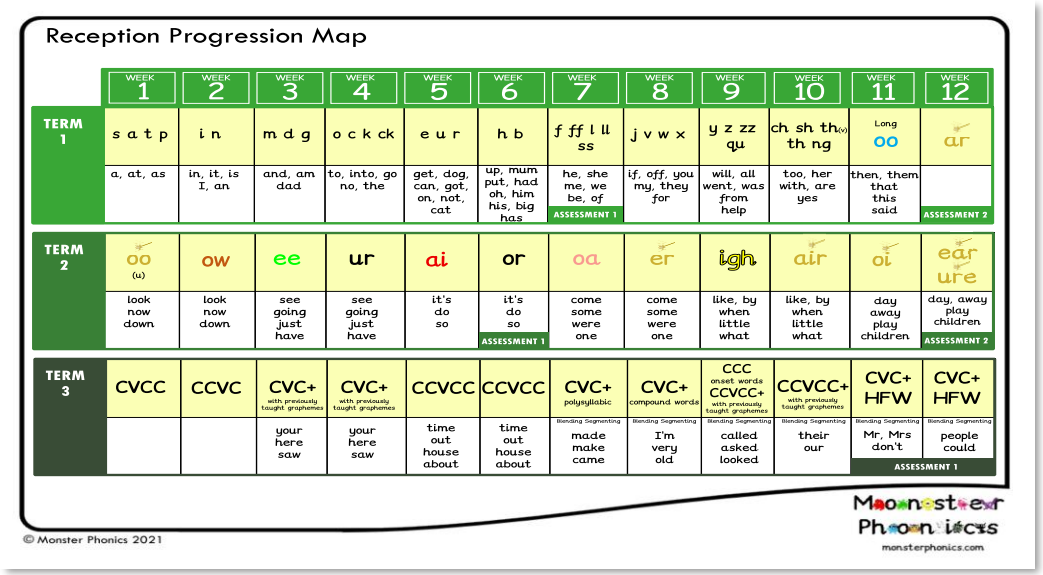
Phonics in Reception

Term 1

Single letter sounds and consonant digraphs plus high frequency words.

Term 2

Introduces more digraphs and trigraphs.



Reception Progression Map

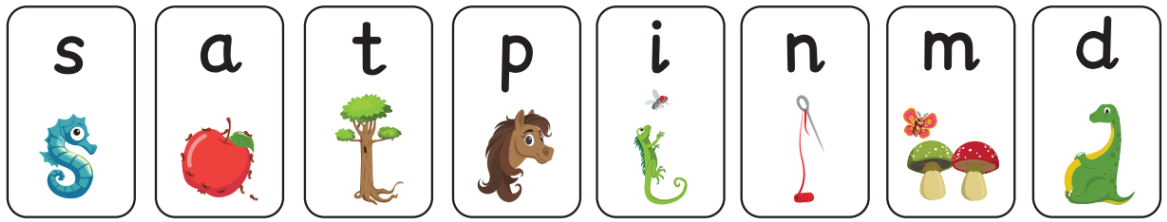
	WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4	WEEK 5	WEEK 6	WEEK 7	WEEK 8	WEEK 9	WEEK 10	WEEK 11	WEEK 12
TERM 1	s a t p	i n	m d g	o c k ck	e u r	h b	f ff l ll ss	j v w x	y z zz qu	ch sh th(v) th ng	Long oo	ar
	a, at, as	in, it, is I, an	and, am dad	to, into, go no, the	get, dog, can, got, on, not, cat	up, mum put, had oh, him his, big has	he, she me, we be, of ASSESSMENT 1	if, off, you my, they for	will, all went, was from help	too, her with, are yes	then, them that this said	ASSESSMENT 2
TERM 2	oo (u)	ow	ee	ur	ai	or	oa	er	igh	air	oi	ear ure
	look now down	look now down	see going just have	see going just have	it's do so	it's do so ASSESSMENT 1	come some were one	come some were one	like, by when little what	like, by when little what	day away play children	day, away play children ASSESSMENT 2
TERM 3	CVCC	CCVC	CVC+ with previously taught graphemes	CVC+ with previously taught graphemes	CCVCC	CCVCC	CVC+ polysyllabic	CVC+ compound words	CCC onset words CCVCC+ with previously taught graphemes	CCVCC+ with previously taught graphemes	CVC+ HFW	CVC+ HFW
			your here saw	your here saw	time out house about	time out house about	made make came	I'm very old	called asked looked	their our	Mr, Mrs don't ASSESSMENT 1	people could

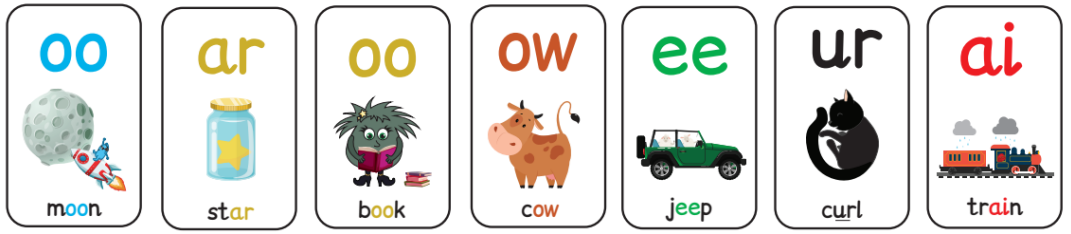
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Term 3

No new graphemes are introduced. Skills focus on blending and segmenting and developing confidence, independence and fluency.





Getting the sounds right!

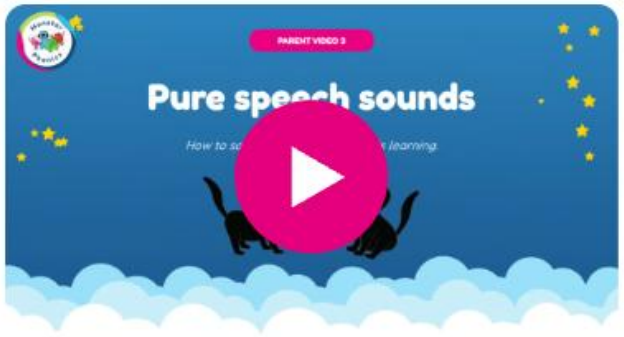
- Important to use pure sounds

mat

muh - a - tuh

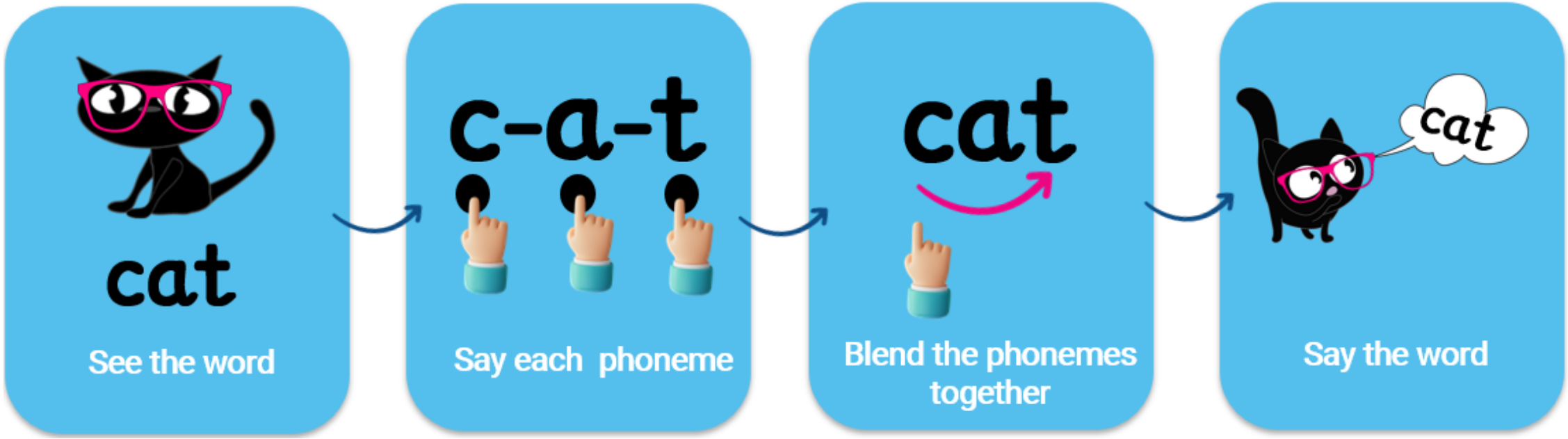


3. How to say the pure speech sounds



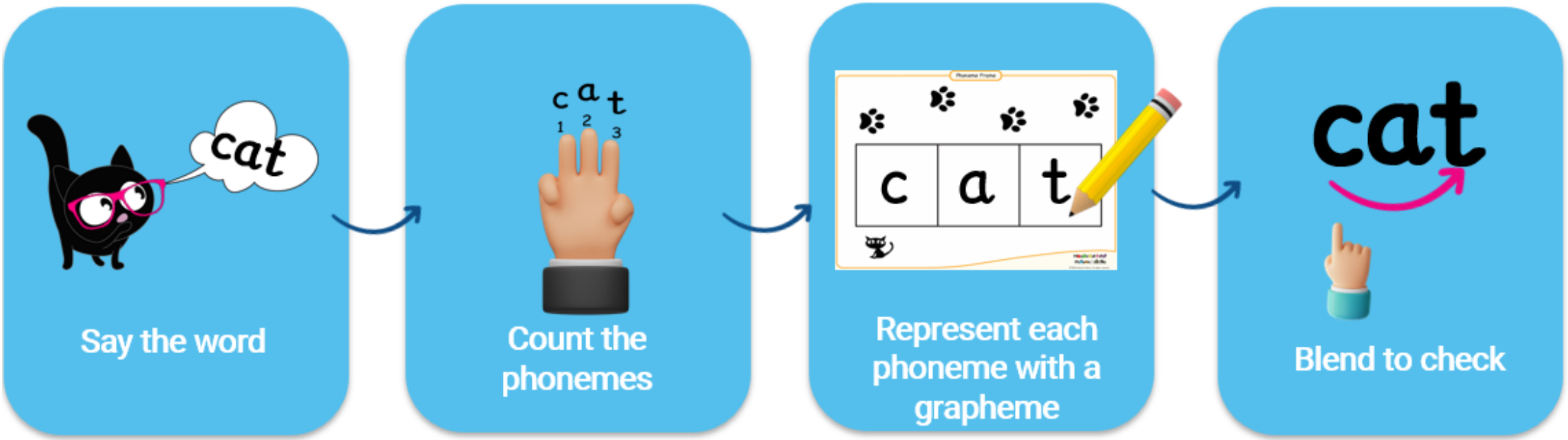
Demonstrates how to pronounce sounds clearly at home, using pure sounds to avoid confusion.

The Blending Process



Blending is merging the phonemes (sounds) you hear together to make a word.
Blending is reading.

The Segmenting Process



Segmenting is splitting a word up into the phonemes that make it and then writing the word by representing each phoneme with a grapheme.

Segmenting is spelling.

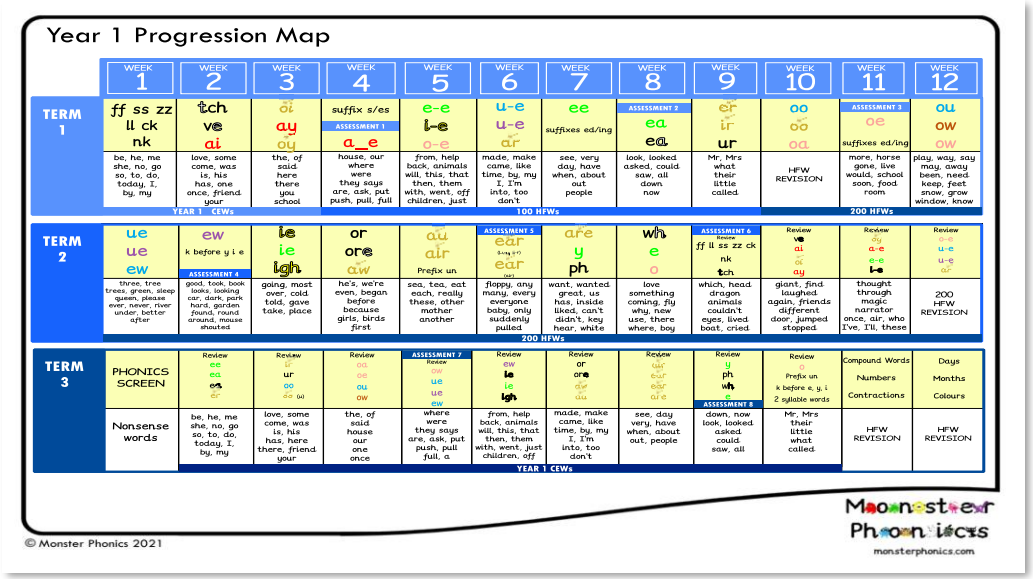
Phonics in Year 1

Term 1

Reviewing the digraphs taught in Reception.

Teaching new graphemes for the sounds we already know e.g. ay, a-e plus more high frequency and common exception words.

Teaching suffixes e.g. -ing, -ed.

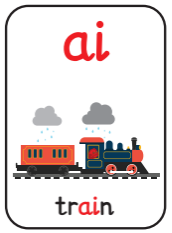


Term 2

Introduces more new graphemes for the same sound plus graphemes with alternative pronunciations e.g. 'ie' as in 'pie' and 'chief'.

Term 2/3

Revision of all year 1 graphemes. Skills focus on blending and segmenting and developing confidence, independence and fluency.



























Dad put three seeds in the soil.

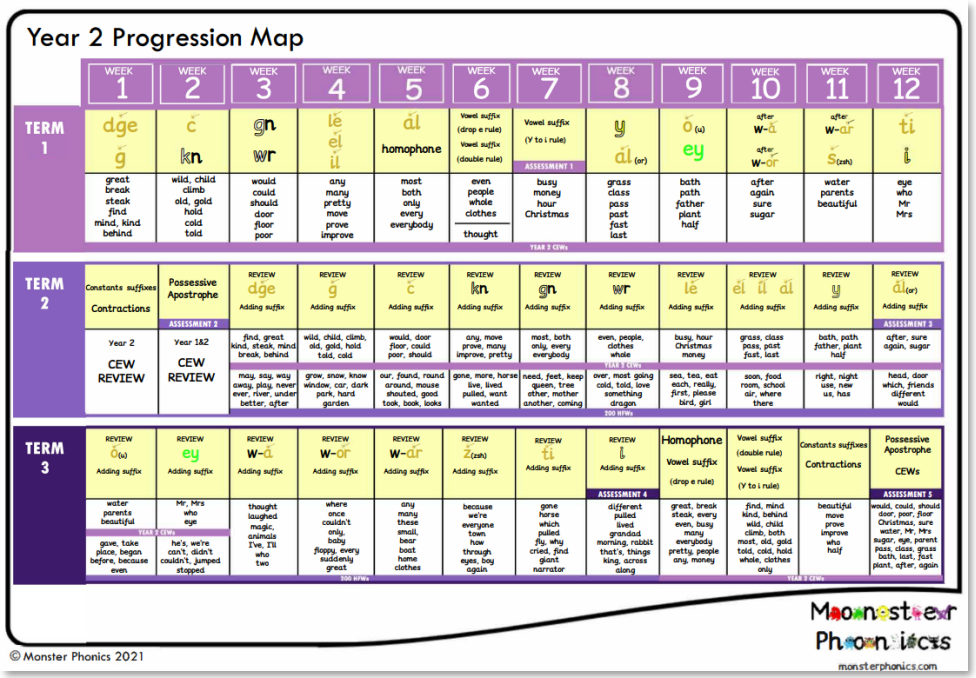
Phonics in Year 2

Term 1

Teaching all graphemes from the Year 2 Curriculum.

Teaching Year 2 common exception words.

Teaching spelling rules including vowel suffixes plus homophones.



Term 2&3

Term 2 & 3 focuses on revision of all Year 2 graphemes.

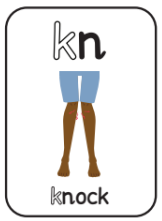
Plus: contractions, possessive apostrophes and revision of suffixes.

Skills focus on increasing confidence, independence, fluency and reading and writing stamina.













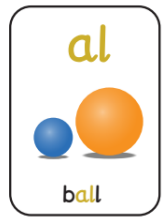


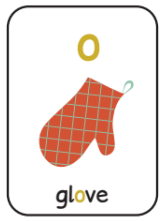














The ponies like to eat the berries.

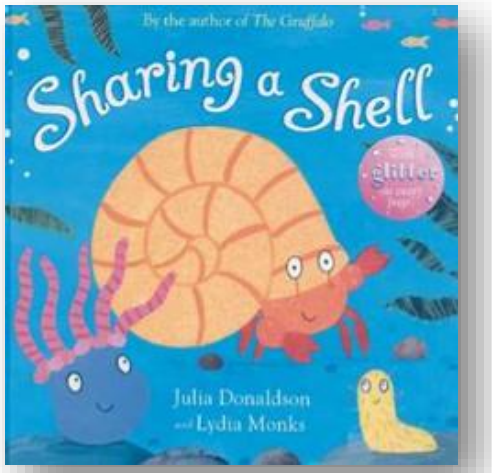
Reading Books in School

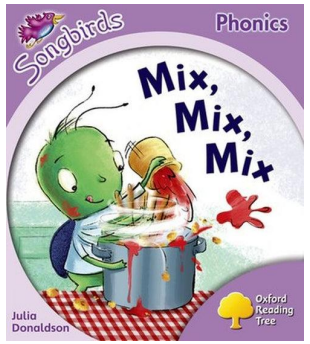
- Reading books are closely matched to your child's secure phonics knowledge.
- Timetabled daily Guided Group reading sessions.
- Taught in small groups with trained members of staff.
- Children focus on developing a range of different reading skills and strategies.
- We work on decoding the words, reading with expression and developing comprehension skills.

Reading Books at Home









Supporting your child at home

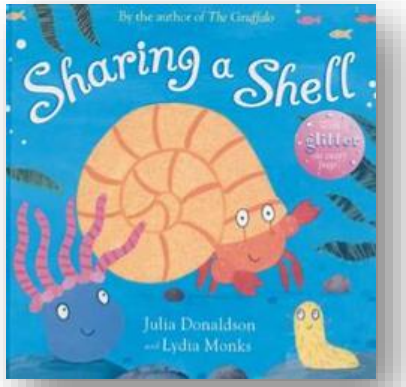
Listening to your child read

- Your child should be able to read their individual reading book by using the decoding strategies they have learnt in school.
- If they can't read a word read help blend the sounds together.
- Talk about the book to check their understanding.
- Short and frequent reading practice.
- Re-reading the book is essential to develop confidence and fluency.
- Celebrate children's success!

Supporting your child at home

Reading to your child

- The shared book is for YOU to read:
- Make the story sound as exciting as you can by adding expression.
- Talk with your child as much as you can:
- Introduce new and exciting language.
- Encourage your child to use new vocabulary.
- Make up sentences together.
- Find different words to use.
- Describe things you see.

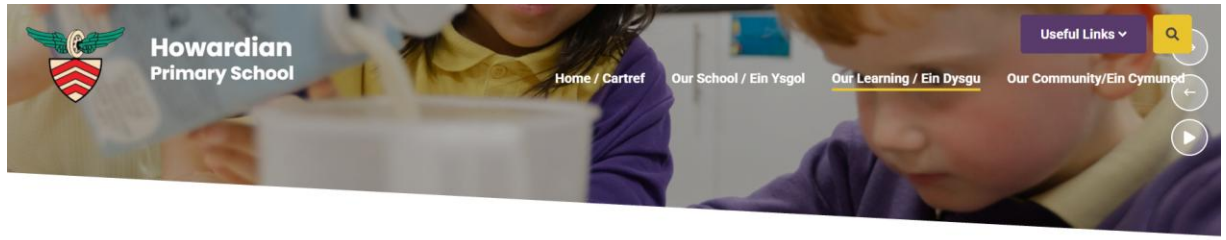


Supporting your child at home

Additional activities

- Practise saying phonics sounds using the appropriate sound mat.
- Practise reading high frequency and common exception words.
- Re-reading favourite books helps build fluency and confidence.
- Practise reading daily... everywhere!
- Visit the library.
- Encourage writing activities e.g. letter formations, spelling words, shopping lists, recipes, letters and stories!
- Follow your child's interests.
- Promote a love of reading!

Parent support for Monster Phonics



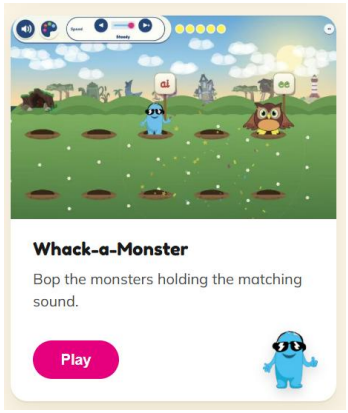
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MONSTER PHONICS

Monster Phonics

Supporting Early Reading with Monster Phonics

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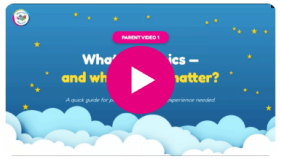




Everything you need to support your child

We know helping with reading at home can sometimes feel tricky. That's why we've created a series of short, bite-sized videos to explain phonics simply. Scroll down for more free resources and easy ways to help your child grow in confidence and love reading.

1. What is phonics and why does it matter?



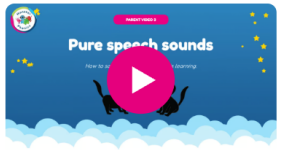
Explains what phonics is, why children learn it today, how it differs from past methods, and why it underpins all reading and spelling.

2. What is Monster Phonics?



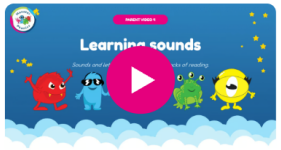
An introduction to the Monster Phonics characters, colour-coding system, and teaching method used in schools.

3. How to say the pure speech sounds

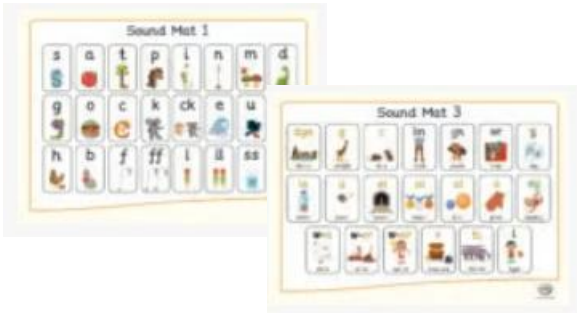


Demonstrates how to pronounce sounds clearly at home, using pure sounds to avoid confusion.

4. Learning Sounds (GPCs)



Breaks down phonemes and graphemes, explains key terminology, and shows the Monster Phonics teaching order.





Please visit our school website for more information and for the website link to the Monster Phonics parent support page.

Howardian Primary School

Thank you for your time!

Any questions?