

Our new books in Bothwell Primary School



What is Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP)?

Systematic Synthetic Phonics is a way of teaching children to read, write and spell. The sounds that children learn are taught in a specific, systematic order (not alphabetically) so that children can begin to build words from these sounds as early as possible.

Phonics supports children to hear, identify and link the sounds that letters make (phonemes) to what the letters look like when written down (graphemes). This helps children to recognise and read words, using knowledge of the sounds to read new or unfamiliar words.



What is Reading Planet Rocket Phonics?

Rocket Phonics is a Systematic Synthetic Phonics programme that supports your child to learn all the skills needed to successfully read, write and spell. It is part of the Reading Planet scheme (learn more about the scheme on page 12).

Within the programme, there are lots of beautifully created and engaging resources such as flashcards, sound mats, and online, interactive Big Books and quizzes to develop learning further. There is also a fully matched series of decodable reading books from a variety of genres, which will be used in class as well as sent home for home reading. These books can also be accessed on the online platform to read as eBooks. If your school has a subscription to Rocket Phonics Online, they can allocate the eBooks for home reading.



Colour bands and sounds

Pink A

s — sssssun (keep teeth together and hiss)

sat, sit

a — a-a-a (open mouth wide as if to bite an apple)

as, at

t — (tick tongue behind the teeth)

tap, tan

i — i-i-i (make a sharp sound at the back of the throat)

it, is

p — (push lips together and let go saying 'p', avoid the 'uh' at the end, almost like a short outward breath)

pat, pin

n — nnnnnet (keep tongue behind teeth)

nap, an

m — mmmmmouse (keep lips pressed together hard)

mat, map

d* — (tap tongue behind teeth)

dip, and

g* — (make a soft sound in your throat)

gap, dig

o — o-o-o (push out lips; make an 'O' shape with your mouth)

got, pot

c — (make a sharp click at the back of your throat)

cat, can

k — (make a sharp click at the back of your throat)

kit, kid

Pink B

ck — (make a sharp click at the back of your throat)

pick, sock

e — e-e-e (release mouth slightly from an open position)

peg, met

u — u-u-u (make a short sound at the back of your throat)

up, sun

r — rrrabbit (say rr as if you're growling)

rat, run

h — (say 'h' as you sharply breathe out with mouth open)

hop, hen

b* — (press lips together and say 'b', pushing lips out as you say it)

bat, big

f — fffffrog (keep teeth on bottom lip and force air out sharply)

fun, fit

ff — (keep teeth on bottom lip and force air out sharply)

off, huff

l — lllladder (keep pointed, curled tongue behind top teeth)

let, luck

ll — (keep pointed, curled tongue behind top teeth)

hill, tell

ss — (keep teeth together and hiss)

mess, fuss

◀◀ Listen to the pronunciation for every sound on the [Reading Planet Rocket Phonics YouTube playlist](#)

Red A

j – jiiijug (push lips forward, lips slightly open, pressing teeth together and force air out)

jam, jump

v – vvvvan (keep teeth on bottom lip and gently force air out)

van, velvet

w^{*} – (keep lips tightly pursed and push air out softly)

went, wind

x – (say a sharp 'c' and add 's')

mix, next

y^{*} – (keep edges of tongue against teeth)

yes, yuck

z & zz – zzzzzebra (keep teeth together and make a buzzing sound)

zip, buzz

/z/ s – (keep teeth together and make a buzzing sound)

hens, bags

qu – (keep lips pursed as you say 'ow')

quick, squid

Red B

ch – (keep edges of tongue against teeth, push tongue to roof of mouth and purse lips, force short, sharp air out)

chop, bench

sh – shhhhheep (make the shhhhh noise as if you are telling someone to be quiet!)

ship, brush

th – thhhhumb (place tongue forward in front of top teeth and breathe out sharply)

bath, then

ng – rinnng (push tongue up to roof of mouth, make sound from the back of the throat)

song, bring

ai – chain, tail

ee – sheep, feel

igh – light, bright

oa – goat, coach

oo – spoon, boot

oo – book, good

Yellow

ar – smart, garden
or – thorn, sort
ur – fur, turn
ow – how, crowd
oi – point, coin
ear – fear, beard
air – hair, chair
ure – pure, secure
er – dinner, longer

Blue

wh – which, whisper
ph – dolphin, phonics
ay – play, crayon
a-e – make, shake
a – acorn, label
ea – peach, team
e-e – complete, these
ie – field, cookie
ie – pie, tried
i-e – shine, smile
y – sky, dry
i – find, remind
ow – snow, window
o-e – home, alone
oe – toe, tomatoes
o – go, both
ey – donkey, valley
y – happy, silly

Green

ue – clue, glue
u-e – flute, rule
u – push, put
ue – due, statue
u-e – cube, confused
u – unicorn, human
ew – chew, screw
ew – news, stew
ir – shirt, thirteen
er – herb, desert
ou – cloud, sound
oy – toy, enjoy
au – launch, author
aw – yawn, claw
ou – you, soup
ou – shoulder, mould
oul – could, should
ear – earth, search
or – world, worth
eer – cheer, career
are – care, square
ear – bear, wear
ere – there, everywhere
al – all, walk
our – four, your
ore – more, before
oor – door, floor
augh – caught, daughter

Orange

ci, cy, ce – city, cycle, parcel
gi, ge, gy – giant, gemstones, energy
se – house, grease
ce – prince, bounce
ea – head, feather
ch – school, chemist
ch – chef, machine
ge – cage, cottage
dge – bridge, fudge
o – brother, wonder
le – bottle, giggle
ed – yelled, roared
ed – mixed, stopped
mb – comb, thumb
kn – know, knuckle
gn – gnome, sign
wr – wrong, wrap
tch – catch, kitchen
s, si, ge – treasure, television, collage
ture – picture, creature
y – gym, pyramid
sc – scissors, scene
st – whistle, castle
(w)a – watch, want
ssi – mission, passion
ci – magician, special
ti – station, potion

Simple phonics glossary

The phonics glossary below includes the main key terms that are useful to know when supporting your child to read using phonics.



blending	The process of using phonics for reading. Children identify and blend the individual sounds together to hear and say the whole word.
cvc, ccvc, cvcc	These represent how words are structured. The 'c' = consonant and the 'v' = vowel. E.g. cat = cvc drip = ccvc milk = cvcc
common exception word (CEW)	Sometimes called a tricky word, these words have an unusual or tricky spelling, e.g. said, one, their. They are not spelt as they sound.
grapheme	A letter or group of letters representing one sound. A grapheme is what the sound looks like when written down; the letter shape.
phoneme	The sound that a letter or group of letters makes. This may also be referred to as a letter-sound.
segmenting	Using phonics skills to support spelling and writing. Children listen to the whole word and break it up into the letter-sounds. E.g. 'lunch' can be segmented as l-u-n-ch.
sound out	Encouraging children to say each individual sound in a word before saying the whole word aloud.

