



Spalding Parish Church of England Day School

Wholly inclusive, striving for fulfilment, empowering the flourishing of our world

22nd November 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Phonics Book

What is a phonics book?

Phonics books use phonics that children have been taught. The order of teaching phonics is matched to the curriculum in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2.

The phonics focus words and high-frequency word practice boxes at the start of each book help children familiarise themselves with the phonics and vocabulary prior to reading. Comprehension questions help aid children's development and inference skills.

How does Monster Phonics support learning to read?

Monster Phonics enables English to be learnt in a simplistic way. The 26 letters of the alphabet and combinations of these letters make 44 different sounds (phonemes) in English.

There are 144 ways (graphemes) to spell these 44 sounds. For example, the sound A is spelt 8 different ways; ay (play), ai (train), a-e (make), a (apron), ei (vein), eigh (eight), ea (great), ey (grey).

Monster Phonics uses the 10 monsters to categorise all sounds into 10 simple areas. Furthermore, each monster has a different colour and that colour also represents the sound. This means children can recognise the monsters and the colour associated with the sound, which helps them spell, read and write.

The use of monsters and the games associated with Monster Phonics ensures Monster Phonics is a fun and engaging way to learn, further accelerating the speed of learning for all.

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.

How schools use the decodable books?

To support learning, Monster Phonics decodable books should be read alongside the programme as part of our guided reading sessions. We recommend 3 guided reading sessions per week, after which the book is sent home for home reading.

What does this mean for your child?

As we move towards more focussed and aligned group reading sessions, you may find that your child doesn't change their book for a couple of weeks. As our focus is on developing children's fluency, some children may move back to a book that they have previously read. Fluency has various strands including pace, intonation and flow and therefore books need to be re-read.

Over the coming week we will share a book in school with your child. On a Friday they will bring this book home to share with you. They will keep this book for one week as a minimum.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support whilst we continue to develop and build on the strong foundations of reading at Spalding Parish. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please note that we will be offering parental workshops in each year group where you can come and see the teaching of reading in your child's class.

Annabel Cooper
EYFS Lead