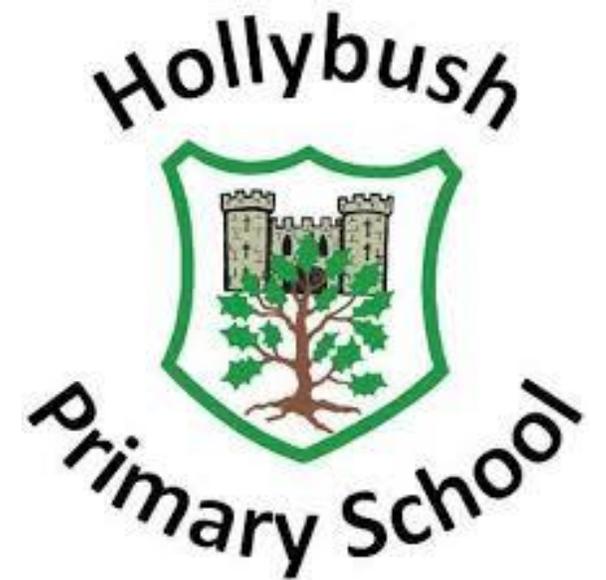


Year 1 Phonics Stay
and Learn

November 2025



Reading changes everything

Teach a child to read and keep that
child reading and we will change
everything.

And I mean everything.

Jeanette Winterson

What is phonics?



All words are made up of sounds. These sounds are blended together to form words.

Using phonics, children learn to read by saying each sound and blending them to read a word.

This gives your children the tools to read any word, for example *demonstrate, containing, roamed, trivial, injured, whimper.*

English alphabetic code

- 26 letters
- 44 sounds
- Over 150+ graphemes (letter combinations)

One of the most complex alphabetic codes in the world!

Set 2 are long vowel sounds with 2 or more letters. We call these 'Special Friends' – two letters together that make one sound. Once children know these Set 2 sounds, they know one way of reading and writing every sound.

Speed Sounds Set 2

Consonant sounds stretchy

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
										nk

Consonant sounds bouncy

b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
	k											

Vowel sounds – bouncy

a	e	i	o	u
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Vowel sounds – stretchy

ay	ee	igh	ow
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Vowel sounds – stretchy

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy
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Speed Sounds Set 3

Once children know how to read Set 2 sounds, they start to learn Set 3 sounds. These are different ways to read and spell Set 2 sounds. We say "same sound, different spelling".

For example, they know 'ay' and now learn a-e and ai as other spellings for the same sound, e.g. play, cake, snail

Consonant sounds

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
ff	ll	mm	nn	rr	ss	ve	zz	ti		nk
ph	le	mb	kn	wr	se		s	ci		
					c		se			
					ce					

b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
bb	k	dd	gg		j	pp		tt	wh			tch
	ck				g							
	ch				ge							
					dge							

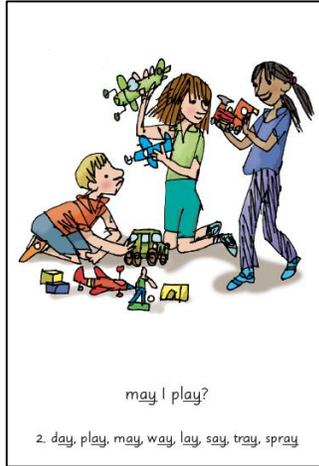
Vowel sounds

a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow
	ea				a-e	e-e	i-e	o-e
					ai	y	ie	oa
						ea	i	o
						e	y	

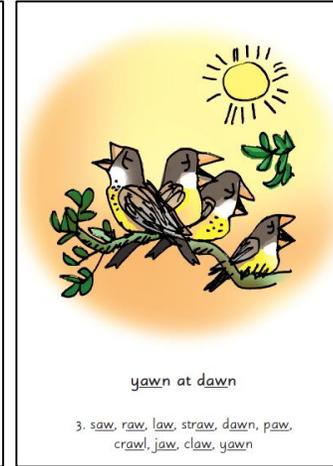
oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy	ire	ear	ure
ū-e			oor	are	ur	ow	oi			
ue			ore		er					
ew			aw							
			au							

Picture Phrases

ay



aw



We use a brief story and a picture phrase to help children to remember the Set 2 and Set 3 sounds.

For example, ay, may I play? aw, yawn at dawn.

We teach children to read and write three new Set 2 or 3 sounds each week. We review the sounds we've taught before until they can read them speedily.

'Special Friends', 'Fred Talk'

spray

crawl

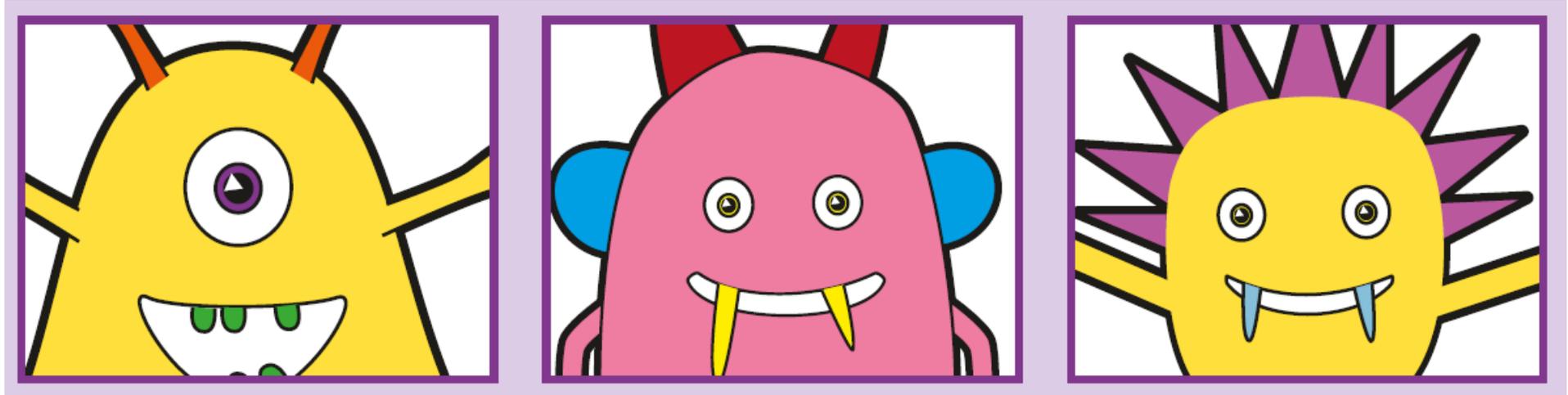
Each day, children practise reading the sounds they know in words.

We use the routine 'Special Friends', 'Fred Talk' 'Read the Word'.

They spot the 'Special Friends' first, then Fred Talk to read the word.

For example,
'ay', s-p-r-ay, spray.

The Phonics Screening Check



*'When you see the monsters face, Fred talk
please no need to race'*

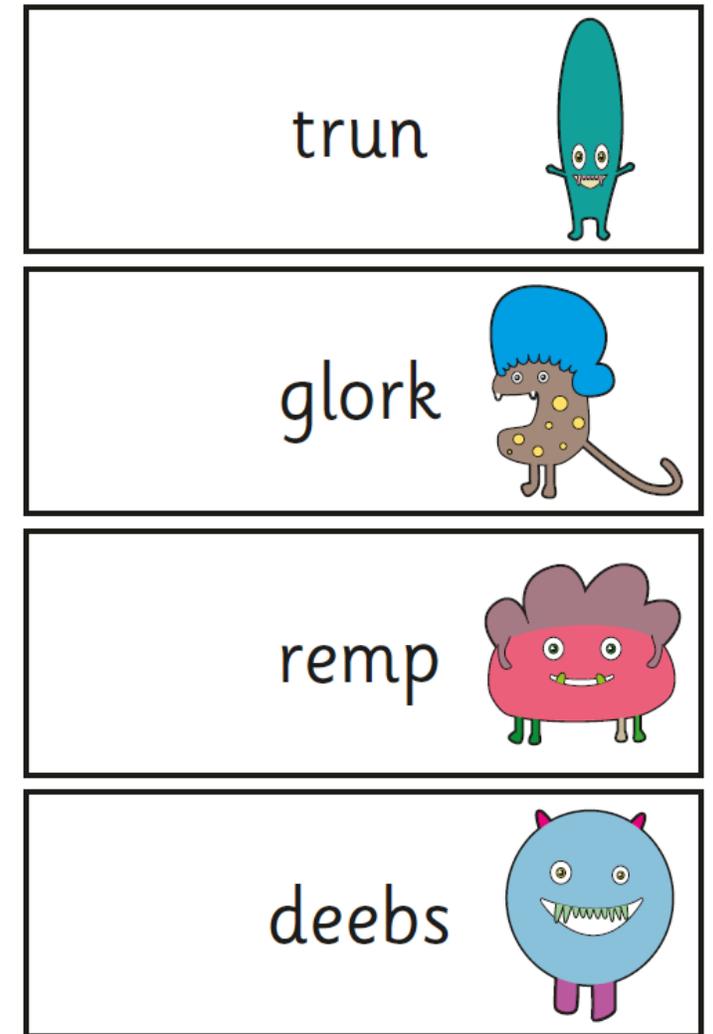
What is the Phonics Screening Check?

- A Government set, word-reading test at the end of Year 1.
- Children read 40 words – some real words, some nonsense words
- It takes between two and five minutes.
- Taken in quiet room with a familiar adult – Miss Deamer or Miss White
- Children are very familiar with the structure of the test. They will be very relaxed and there is no need to worry!
- Takes place between Monday 8th June 2026 to Friday 12th June 2026.
- Your child's punctuality and attendance during this time is of utmost importance.

Half of the words in the check are real words. Half are nonsense words. There is a picture of an alien next to each word to remind the children that it isn't a real word.

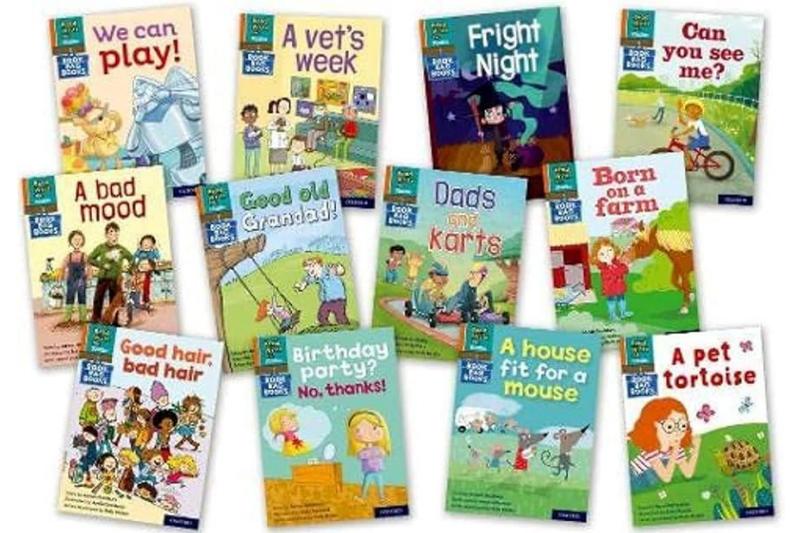
Nonsense words are used to assess children's reading. They check that children will be able to read sounds the sounds they know in unfamiliar words.

Children who can read nonsense words will, very soon, be able to read any new word – for example – **gargantuan, flailing, anticipation;** Reading new words increases children's vocabulary rapidly.



Our reading scheme

Red
Green
Pink
Orange
Yellow
Blue
Grey



At the end of Year 1, all children are expected to be reading blue / grey books.

How to listen to your child read at home

- Familiarisation
- Reading
- Discussion



Children read the book at least 3 times

1. The first read focuses on reading every word accurately.
2. The second on reading more fluently.
3. The third read on comprehension- understanding what they read.

All children will have their book changed on a Monday and a Friday. You do not need to write a long comment! Just a signature is fine.

How can you help?

- Learn how to say the sounds correctly.
- Practice reading the sounds speedily.
- Help your child use 'Special Friends', 'Fred Talk' to read words.
- Listen to your child read every day – make this a part of your daily routine. 10 minutes per day is recommended.
- Watch the Virtual Classroom videos together – QR codes in their reading records.
- Read favourite stories **over and over** again
- Ensure attendance and punctuality every day – RWI begins at 9:20.

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Any questions?



Thank you for coming! Let's
get the children!