



# Rocket Phonics

In Foundation Stage



# Today's Workshop Aims

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- To develop an understanding of what Rocket Phonics is and how it teaches your child to read.
- To know how Phonics is taught here at Kidmore End Primary School.
- To know how to support children at home with their Phonics and Reading.



# Rising Stars – Rocket Phonics

- It is a fully resourced, systematic synthetic phonics programme. We teach the alphabetic code, blending, segmenting and handwriting.
- It includes:
  - ✓ Digital engaging resources used for daily lessons including a 'Big Book'
  - ✓ Digital and print copies of reading books
  - ✓ Pupil practice Workbooks used throughout Reception and KS1
  - ✓ Flashcards, friezes, posters and sound mats used throughout KS1 and KS2 for consistency





- It progresses at a steady pace. For example:

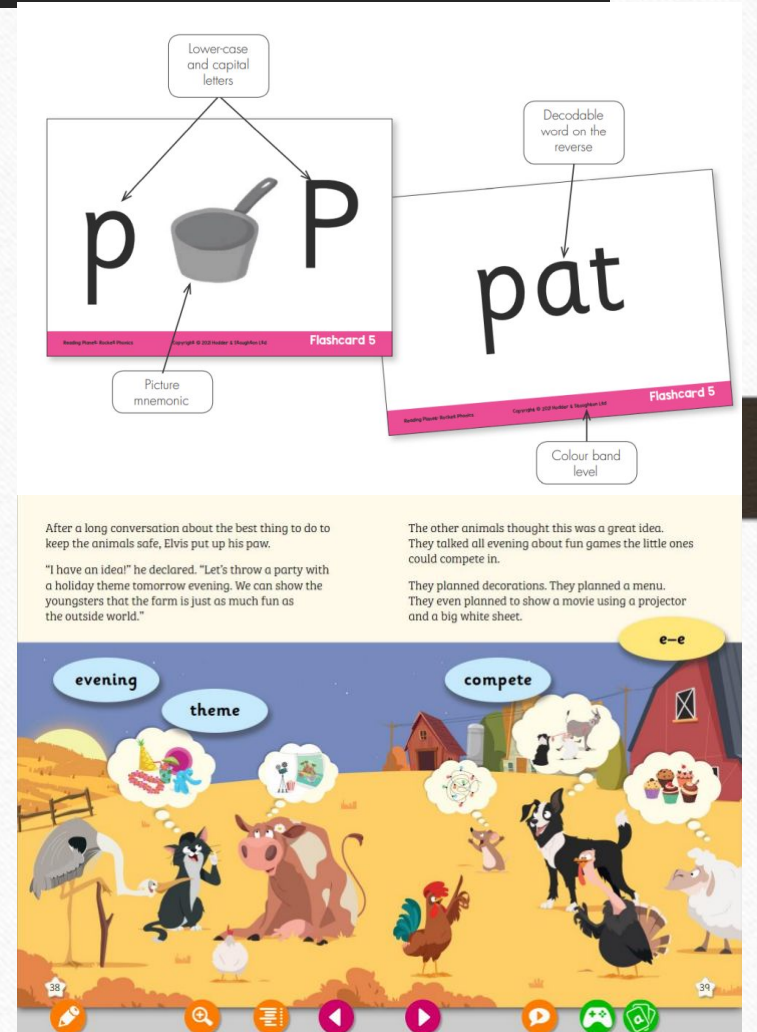
- **Day 1** - a new sound (phoneme) is taught through the use of an exciting and engaging story big book and the skills needed to **blend** are practised and applied in the Pupil Workbook. (reading)
- **Day 2** - the same sound is revisited, this time with a focus on letter formation (grapheme) and **segmenting** skills for writing. (writing)
- Each week, one day either focusses on consolidating or common exception words (Tricky words)
- We teach the letter names as well as the sounds and we refer to lower case and upper case.
- Children are taught to use capital letters, finger spaces and full stops in foundation stage too.

- | Day 1                                       | Day 2                            | Day 3                                     | Day 4                               | Day 5                                    |
|---|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Introduce m<br>blending<br>Map man mat mist | M- segmenting<br>mat tin Sam man | D- blending Dad<br>sad mad dip din<br>dim | D-segmenting-dip did<br>Dad sad mad | Common exception<br>word practice: I the |



# What do the Phonics Lessons Look Like?

- We start as a whole class where we practice the letter sounds and introduce new ones
- We teach the sounds and the letter formation as a whole class
- Lots of opportunity to practise the skills needed to blend and segment
- Big book- a fun story to introduce and practice the letter sounds and to inspire discussions and conversations
- Fingers to segment and lots of interaction and modelling. Air writing and writing on whiteboards to practice.
- Children then move into groups where they work through a carousel of activities- all children work on their fine motor skills, reading and writing everyday. They apply what they have been taught in their pupil practice booklets and by reading the target practice reading books.
- We then all come back together to consolidate the lesson's learning.






# Learning to Write With New Sounds

- On Day 1, once children are taught a new sound, children then practice both reading this new sound in small groups with an adult.
- We focus on identifying the letter and sound, segmenting and blending using this sound, and reading words/sentences with the focus sound in.
- On Day 2, children segment, handwrite and spell using the new sound, including writing a short sentence.

## Day 1



1. Revise and review: Say and tick each sound.

i t I a p P S T

2. Grapheme search: Find and circle all the p letters.

Pip has a pink pen.


How many did you spot?

3. Blending practice: Decode and match the words to the pictures.

sip

tip


tap



4. Apply: Tick the sentence that matches the picture.


It is a pit.

It is a pip.



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## Day 2



1. Revise and review: Listen to the sounds and point to the letters.


t s a i p I P A

2. Grapheme write: Copy the letters and say the sound as you write.

p p p

P P P

3. Segmenting practice: Look and write the words.



p t a

i p p

4. Apply: Let's write a sentence.

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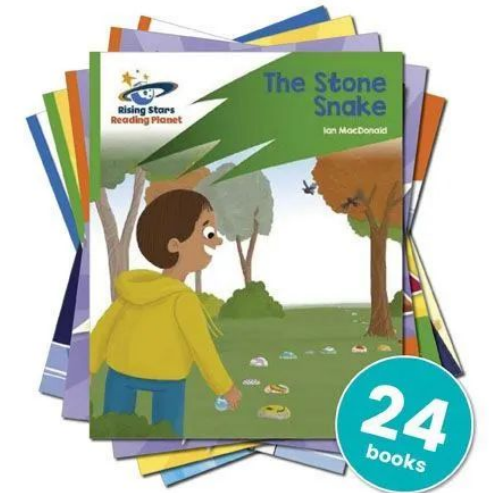


# Reading Books

- There is a lot more to reading than just being able to decode words. To create a balanced reader, children should be able to:
  - **Decode** (phonics)
  - **Read with fluency**, phrasing and expression
  - **Comprehension** of the text they are reading

In order to embed these skills, research shows that children should be reading books more than once.

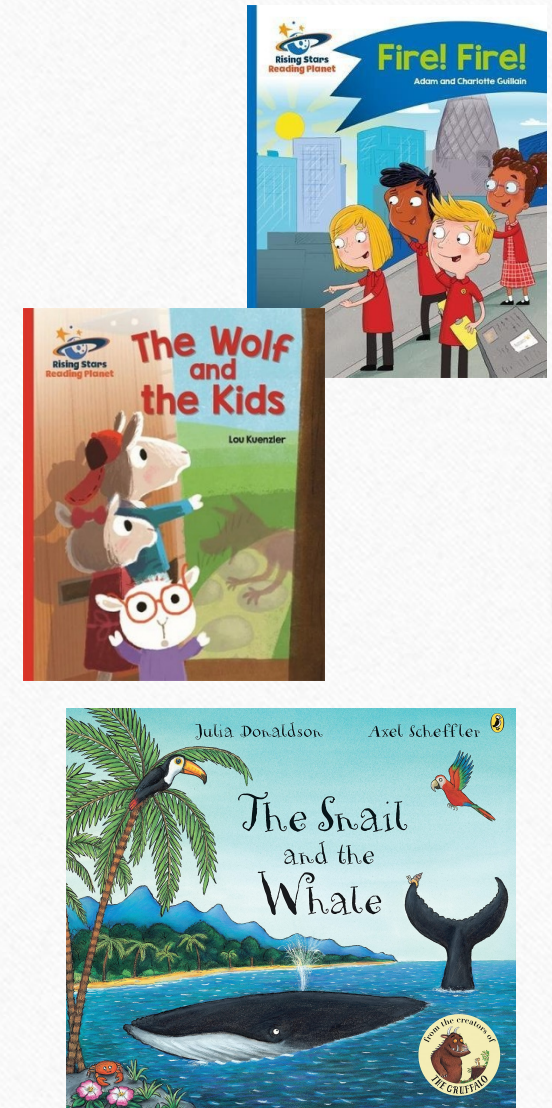
- At school, as well as many other reading opportunities, children read the target practice reading books in small groups everyday.
- The target practice books focus on the sounds we are currently learning or have learnt in the last few weeks. In groups, children read out loud to a partner or to their group as well as out loud to the teacher.





# Reading Books

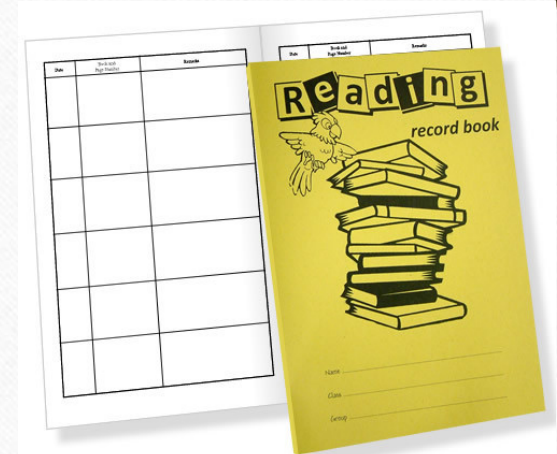
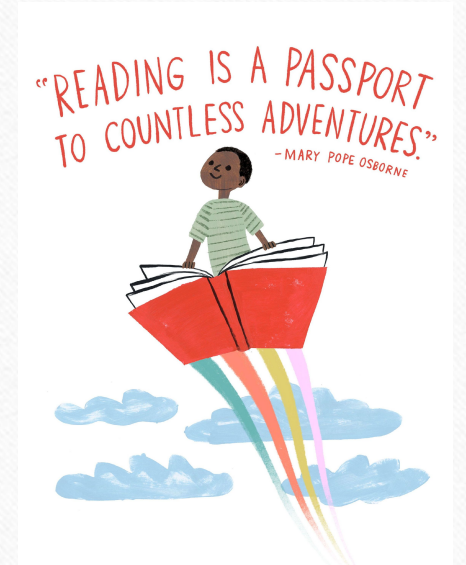
- As well as the Target Practice readers that we keep at school, children are assigned **2 x Reading Planet** books each week matched to your child's phonic ability.
- Reading books are changed once a week on a **Friday**, which not only gives more than one wonderful opportunity to develop their fluency and comprehension over the week, but also allows staff much more time to spend with your children engaging in their learning and supporting them to learn to read.
- Children also regularly choose a book from the classroom to share with you at home.





# How to Help Your Child

- Keep positive and be patient.
- Encourage your child/children to share their school books with you daily (other books are encouraged too)
- Encourage all sorts of reading opportunities (comics, ebooks, magazines etc)
- Please continue to write a short comment or just sign the reading record so we can see how reading is going at home. This will help us to see they have been read and need changing. If there is no comment we will allow the child another week with the same books.
- Encourage discussion about what has been read, ask questions about the characters and predictions about what might happen next
- There are some lovely reading prompts, questions and activities in the reading planet books.





- Familiarise yourself with the pronunciation of the letter sounds, don't use the schwa! (uh- e.g. "suh" or "tuh")
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyGQY\\_GHtoQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyGQY_GHtoQ) (5:25 into video)  
Also search for rocket phonics pronunciation videos on you tube.
- Give your child/ children time to sound out the words and encourage them to say it again if it's not quite right, so that they are practicing correctly.
- Letter formation practice where necessary- check book bags to see if these are required to support your child.
- We welcome volunteers if you are able to hear children read in class and support them on their reading journey.



Thank you for coming!

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Any questions, please do ask!