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Monster Phonics Reading Books

Dear Parent / Carer,

Welcome to Monster Phonics

Your child may have been coming home from school talking about Monster Phonics or Phonics Monsters, they may even have started to bring their Monster Phonics books home to read with you. We are keen to explain more.....

The Department for Education require all schools to follow an accredited systematic synthetic phonics programme and Monster Phonics is the programme that we at Haytor View have chosen. In the Foundation Stage and Key Stage One phonics is now taught daily through systematic structured lessons based on the multi-sensory Monster Phonics synthetic phonics scheme. Each lesson provides an opportunity for children to revisit prior learning, be taught new learning, as well as practice and apply their learning.

Children in Key Stage 2 who continue to require phonics teaching are taught in differentiated groups or individually, and in Years 3 and 4 the Monster Phonics Scheme is used. In fact, Monster Phonics resources are used throughout the school to support children's application of skills in reading and writing, for example through the use of table top resources and posters displayed in the classroom.

How Monster Phonic Works

Monster Phonics makes learning fun and more memorable, it uses colour coding to promote understanding, which leads to children becoming confident, independent learners. You will see this colour coding on the resources displayed in each classroom.

The 26 letters of the alphabet and combinations of these letters make 44 speech sounds in English. The 44 sounds (phonemes) are spelt by 144 different letter combinations (graphemes). For example, the sound A is spelt several different ways, including ay (play) and ai (train). Monster Phonics teaches children to read by enabling them to identify the individual graphemes (letter combinations) and blend the sounds (phonemes) together to read the word. To support this process, Monster Phonics uses the 10 monsters to categorise all sounds into 10 simple areas. Furthermore, each monster has a different colour and that colour represents that way of spelling the sound.

Your child's experiences in class

Your child will be learning through the assignment of a Monster Phonics colour and the linkage of the sound, creating more ways of remembering the spelling. Your child's teacher will be using games, songs and activities that continuously reflect this way of learning, so that structure is constantly seen, heard and experienced by your child. This consistency is critical in ensuring that a complicated language is learnt in the most simplistic way.

Your child's teacher will be assessing your children's progress during phonics and reading sessions, in order to ensure the book and colour they are allocated closely matches their development stage.

The books your child will be bringing home to read

In Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 your child will be bringing home a Monster Phonics book to read each week. Prior to them bringing a new book home they will have read the book several times with an adult in school, in order to reinforce the teaching which is taking place in class.

We know that children are best supported when parents, carers and school adults follow the same approach to supporting children's reading. Working in this way supports the reinforcement of learning. Therefore when your child brings their book home to read to you they will already be very familiar with it. What will best support them in their reading with you is having the opportunity to repeatedly re-read the book as this will reinforce the sounds (phonemes), high frequency words and tricky words they are learning.

Children will change their Monster Phonics books **once a week**, bringing home the next book following a focused teaching input from their class teacher.

Your job.....Making sure your child has their Monster Phonics book in school!

In Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 the children will have a named Monster Phonics wallet. The children, with your help, need to bring their Monster Phonics book into school on the requested day by their teacher, in order that they have it ready to read with an adult in class.

If your child does not bring in their Monster Phonics reading book, it will mean they are unable to take part in their reading session. Therefore it is essential that you ensure they bring it to school on the requested day – we may well ask you to go home and fetch it if it is forgotten!

Looking after the Monster Phonic books

As you can imagine, resourcing enough books for children to read in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 has seen a significant investment from school running into many thousands of pounds. With this in mind the books being sent home need to be looked after. Parents and carers will be charged for books which are returned damaged as these books will need to be replaced.

We are early in our journey with Monster Phonics and are really pleased to have you supporting your children with their reading. As we develop the programme we will update you on what is happening in school and how you can support your child.

However, if you have any questions in the meantime regarding your child's reading please speak with your child's class teacher who will be delighted to meet with you and provide further information.

S Butler – Foundation Stage Leader

I Franklin – Key Stage One Leader