



Year 2 Phonics

Helping your child at home

Preparing for the Phonics Check re-take • June 2027





Welcome — and thank you for coming

Your child will re-take the national Phonics Check in **June 2027**. Tonight is all about the **simple, practical things you can do at home** to help them get there — and we will show you exactly how.

You will leave tonight with:



A clear picture

of what the Phonics Check actually involves.



A simple routine

that takes just 10–15 minutes a day.



The exact tools

— the websites, books and games to use.



First — please do not worry

4 in 5

About four in five children reach the expected standard in Year 1 — and the **great majority who re-take go on to pass in Year 2.**



It is common

Lots of children re-take the check — your child is far from alone.



There is time

A whole school year to prepare. No need to cram.



Stay positive

Confidence matters as much as skill. Little and often is what works.



Phonics in a nutshell

A quick reminder — then we move straight on to what to do at home.

1

SOUNDS

Words are built from sounds — called phonemes. English has about 44 of them.



2

LETTERS

Each sound is written with letters — graphemes. That can be 1, 2 or 3 letters: s, ai, igh.



3

TWO JOBS

Blend sounds together to READ.
Break words into sounds to SPELL.

The 44 sounds of English

 snake	 ant	 ted	 pig	 pin	 net	 mat	 donkey	 pot
 kitten	 grapes	 rat	 pen	 bat	 hat	 fan	 lip	 jug
 van	 wig	 hug	 queen	 box	 yes	 zip	 ship	 chop
 bath	 king	 rain	 sheep	 pie	 toe	 statue	 book	 bolt
 bun	 fort	 cow	 cure	 fair	 car	 fear	 treasure	



Hear every sound said aloud

Each of the 44 sounds spoken clearly — a great help for every family, and especially with English as an additional language.

Watch: Oxford Owl — all 44 sounds (YouTube)

Free to watch — no login needed.



The Phonics Check — what it looks like



One-to-one with the teacher

A short, friendly read — just your child and a familiar adult, in June.



40 words to read aloud

Your child sounds out each word. No writing, no time pressure.



20 real words + 20 'alien' words

Half are made-up nonsense words — children must sound them out.



The pass mark

Usually 32 out of 40 (it was 31 in 2026). The DfE confirms it each June.

Real words

twice

gloom

turn

Alien (nonsense) words

skap

blorn

meft





Your Home Plan

8 simple things to do at home

Little and often — about 10–15 minutes a day



Your home plan at a glance

Find this on our school website

1



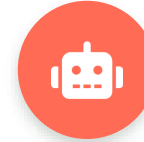
Read every day on Bug Club

2



Say the sounds the pure way

3



Play the robot game

4



Sound buttons & frames

5



Have fun with alien words

6



Master the tricky words

7



'Best guess' spelling

8



Little, often & full of praise

1 Read every day on Bug Club

Log in to **Bug Club (ActiveLearn)** every day and read the books your child's teacher has set.

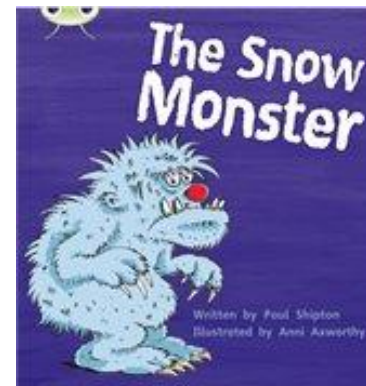
- The books are matched to exactly where your child is in phonics — so they can sound them out.
- They are the same books listed in the letters we send home.
- Re-read each book two or three times — it builds fluency and confidence.
- 10–15 minutes a day is plenty.

Log in at: activelearnprimary.co.uk/login



**Bug Club
Phonics**

Your child's login is inside their reading diary.



Example: a matched decodable book



From our letter to the book on screen

1 · The letter we send home

ROE GREEN
Infant School

Princes Avenue,
Kingsbury, London,
NW9 9JL

Telephone: 020 8204 3531
Email: admin@roegreeninf.brent.sch.uk
www.roegreeninf.brent.sch.uk

Date

Dear Parent/Carer of: «Name» Class : «Class»

I have been listening to your child read as part of the additional support that we are providing in school to help to develop their reading skills.

It is very important that your child continues to practise their reading both at school and at home. We would therefore like you to go onto your Active Learn Bug Club account and access the following book:

BOOK TITLE

This is the book that we have been reading together in school. By also reading it at home, your child will be able to reinforce what we have been working on, which should further enhance the progress that they make with their reading.

Your child will also need to remember to complete the questions which accompany the online book by clicking on the Bug link button.

If you do not remember you log in details they are below. If you have any problems accessing the technology/[platform](#), please let us know at the school.

Website : https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?e=-1&c=0
Username : «Username»
Password : «Password»
School Code: roeg

Thank you for your support with your child's reading.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Lobo
Senior Leadership Team

Roe Green Infant School | Head Teacher - Mrs N Lobo | Proud to belong, Proud to be.

It names the exact book your child read — and carries the login.

2 · Open it on Bug Club at home



“Phonics Bug” — the reading programme we use in school.

Log in at: [activelearnprimary.co.uk/login](https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login)



Reads the story aloud to your child.



Your child can read it themselves.



Questions to answer about the text.

2

Say the sounds the 'pure' way

Say the **pure sound**, not the letter name — and keep it short and crisp.

- 'mmm' not 'muh' · 'sss' not 'suh' · 't' not 'tuh'.
- Clipped sounds make blending far easier: c-a-t, not cuh-a-tuh.
- Watch a short guide together and copy it — we will demonstrate now.

**m****s****t**

Keep each sound short and sharp

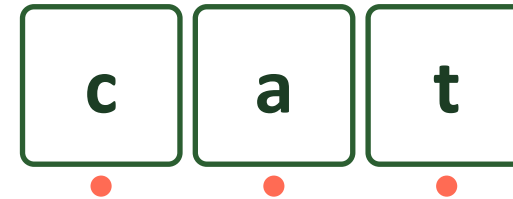
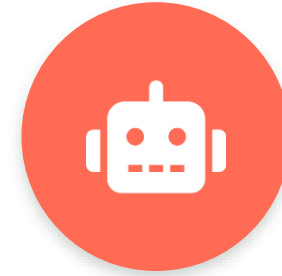
[Watch \(free\): "Mr Thorne Does Phonics" on YouTube](#)

3

Play the robot game (blending to READ)

You say the sounds like a robot; your child **pushes them together** to say the word.

- You: “c – a – t”. Your child: “cat!”
- Start slowly, then speed up. Make it silly and fun.
- Play it anywhere: “Get your c-oa-t”, “time for b-e-d”.
- This is the exact skill the check tests — blending to read.



cat



If blending is tricky: onset and rime

Some children find sounding out every letter hard. **Onset and rime** breaks a word into just two chunks — a gentler way into blending.

- The rime is the vowel and what follows — the “ig” in pig.
- Teach the rime as ONE sound first: i, g → “ig”.
- Then just add the first sound (the onset): w-ig, p-ig, b-ig.
- Two chunks instead of three sounds — far easier to blend.
- Build whole word families this way: -ig, -at, -op, -en.

Learn the rime first



...then add the first sound:

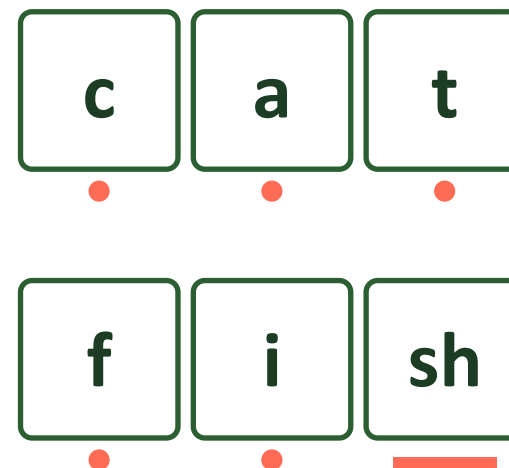


4

Sound buttons & frames (segmenting to SPELL)

To spell, break the word into its sounds — **one box for each sound**.

- Draw a box per sound: c | a | t and f | i | sh (sh is ONE sound!).
- Dot under a single-letter sound; a line under a 2–3 letter sound.
- Say each sound out loud as you write it.
- Great for tricky spellings your child keeps mixing up.



• = one sound — = two/three letters, one sound

5

Have fun with alien words

Half the check is made-up **'alien' words** — so practise sounding out nonsense words at home.

- Make up silly words: “glorp”, “sprin”, “meck”, “blan”.
- Your child sounds them out — they cannot guess these, they must decode.
- Give the aliens names and draw them — it makes practice fun.
- This turns the trickiest part of the check into a game.



glorp

meck

sprin

Made-up words = pure sounding-out practice

6

Master the tricky words

Some words **cannot be sounded out** — the ‘common exception’ or ‘tricky’ words. Learn these by sight.

- Little and often: just 3–4 words at a time.
- Spot them, read them, then have a go at spelling them.
- Pop them on the fridge or around the house.
- Year 2 adds 64 new tricky words to the ones from Year 1.

Year 1 and 2 Common Exception Words							
Year 1				Year 2			
the	they	one		door	gold	plant	clothes
a	be	once		floor	hold	path	busy
do	he	ask		poor	told	bath	people
to	me	friend		because	every	hour	water
today	she	school		find	great	move	again
of	we	put		kind	break	prove	half
said	no	push		mind	steak	improve	money
says	go	pull		behind	pretty	sure	Mr
are	so	full		child	beautiful	sugar	Mrs
were	by	house		children	after	eye	parents
was	my	our		wild	fast	could	Christmas
is	here			climb	last	should	everybody
his	there			most	past	would	even
has	where			only	father	who	
I	love			both	class	whole	
you	come			old	grass	any	
your	some			cold	pass	many	

7

'Best guess' spelling choices

The same sound can be spelled different ways — help your child choose the one that **looks right**.

- “rain” or “rayn”? “boil” or “boyl”? Try both.
- Talk about which one looks right — this builds a spelling instinct.
- Wipe-clean whiteboards make it low-pressure and fun.
- Mistakes are fine — it is all good thinking practice.

Which one looks right?

rain



rayn

boil



boyl

snow



snoa

tray



traí

8

Little, often & full of praise

Keep it **short, positive and fun** — a happy, confident reader is one who keeps going.

- 10 minutes a day beats an hour once a week.
- Praise the effort, not just getting it right.
- Keep reading stories for pleasure — snuggle up and enjoy books together.
- Stop before frustration — always end on a win.



10 mins a day



Praise effort



Enjoy stories



Your 10–15 minutes a day

A simple recipe you can follow most days — mix and match across the week.

2 min



Warm up

Say a few sounds together using the sound mat.

+

5 min

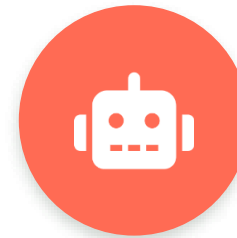


Read

Read (and re-read) the Bug Club book on ActiveLearn.

+

3 min



Play

Robot game or a couple of alien words to sound out.

+

2 min



Tricky words

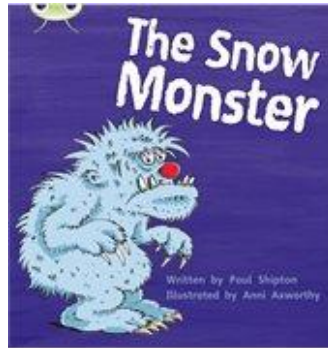
Read 3–4 tricky words — spot, read, spell.

And across the week: read a story for pleasure at bedtime, and play a phonics game (PhonicsPlay, Topmarks or Alphablocks) at the weekend.



Books to practise with at home

Bug Club decodable books



- Free with your child's ActiveLearn login — read online at home.
- Perfectly matched to your child's phonics level.
- The same books we list in the letters sent home.

CGP phonics practice books



- Handy write-in practice for Year 1 & Year 2 phonics.
- We have copies here tonight — do come and have a look.
- We can order them for you at a discounted rate.
- Or buy your own from any bookshop or online (WHSmith, Amazon).

Ask us tonight to order CGP books through school



Useful (and free!) websites & apps



Bug Club / ActiveLearn

Your child's own matched reading books.

activelearnprimary.co.uk/login



PhonicsPlay

Free phonics games — choose Phase 5.

phonicsplay.co.uk



Mr Thorne Does Phonics

Free videos for every sound — on YouTube.

[YouTube: Mr Thorne Does Phonics](#)



Topmarks

Free phonics & literacy games.

topmarks.co.uk



Alphablocks (CBeebies)

Fun phonics cartoons.

[BBC iPlayer & YouTube](#)



Top tip

A few minutes on one of these counts as practice — keep it playful and let your child choose.



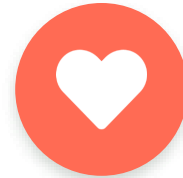
If your child finds something tricky

That is completely normal — and it is exactly what we are here to help with. Please tell us; you are not on your own.



Use the phonics packs

Your child's teacher may send home a pack for specific sounds — please do use it.



Keep sessions short

Stop before frustration and always end on something they can do.



Talk to us

Speak to your child's class teacher, or catch us any time — we will put extra support in place.



Celebrate progress

Notice the small wins. Confidence grows every time they succeed.

If you remember only three things...

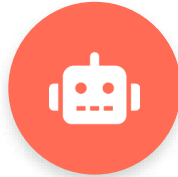
1



Read on Bug Club every day

Just 10–15 minutes with the matched books.

2



Say pure sounds & blend them

The robot game is the heart of the check.

3



Keep it short, fun & full of praise

A confident reader is one who keeps going.



Thank you!



Any questions?

Please speak to your child's class teacher, or catch us at the end tonight.

Together, we will get them there.