

# Year 1 Phonics and Reading Workshop



# THE MILLION WORD GAP

New research shows the different numbers of words kids will have heard by age 5 based on how often parents read to them:

**Never** read to: 4,662 words

1-2 times per week: 63,570 words

3-5 times per week: 169,520 words

Daily: 296,660 words

Five books a day: 1,483,300 words



CAT



ABC

# Part 1- Reading and phonics

# Part 2- Reading for pleasure

 High Will Low Skill	High Will High Skill 
Low Will Low Skill 	Low Will High Skill 

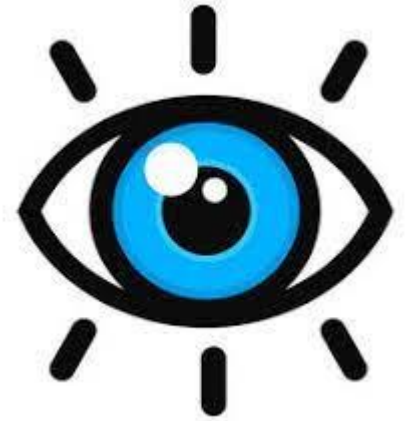


# READING

- Your child's book colour will be selected based on reading. They will bring home two books of that colour per week.
- They will also bring home a reading for pleasure book.
- These books will be changed once weekly (not always on the same day).
- In Year 1 we ask that you read your child's book band books **at least** 3 times a week with your child and record the name of the book and your child's response in their diaries.
- Diaries are checked once we




# Common exception Words



**Rocket Phonics**  
Common Exception Words





	I	the	go	to	
no	into	he	she	we	me
be	was	my	you	her	they
all	are	some	one	said	come
do	so	were	when	have	there

**Rocket Phonics**  
Common Exception Words

	out	like	little	what	
oh	their	people	Mr	Mrs	looked
called	asked	could	water	where	who
again	thought	through	many	laughed	because
any	eyes	friends	once	please	

# Phonics

- We will be continuing using the phonics scheme called 'Rocket Phonics'.
- There will be the statutory phonics check in the summer term which will check how well your child can

Section 2	
brend	
throst	
stret	
spraw	

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Section 2	
label	
vanish	
blossom	
thankful	

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# Key words

- Segmenting – Splitting up the word into sounds.
- Blending – Blending the sounds to make a word.
- Digraph – Two letters making one sound.
- Trigraph – Three letters making one sound.
- Split digraph – Two letters that have been separated by another letter.


- We learn two new sounds a week.
- When we learn a new sound we have a blending lesson and a segmenting lesson.
- We have one common exception word lesson a week.
- In Year 1 the children are carrying on from their learning in F2 and learning how to segment and blend


**Rocket Phonics**  
Sounds Mat 2


<b>zz</b> fizzy 	<b>qu</b> queen 	<b>ch</b> chick 	<b>sh</b> sheep 	<b>th</b> thumb feather 
<b>ng</b> ring 	<b>ai</b> train 	<b>ee</b> bee 	<b>igh</b> light 	<b>oa</b> boat moon 
<b>ar</b> car 	<b>or</b> fork 	<b>ur</b> purse 	<b>ow</b> owl 	<b>oi</b> coin 
<b>air</b> chair 	<b>ure</b> manure 	<b>er</b> hammer 	<b>wh</b> wheel 	<b>ph</b> dolphin 
<b>a-e</b> cake 	<b>a</b> acorn 	<b>e-e</b> scene 	<b>ie</b> shield 	<b>ea</b> peach 

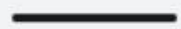




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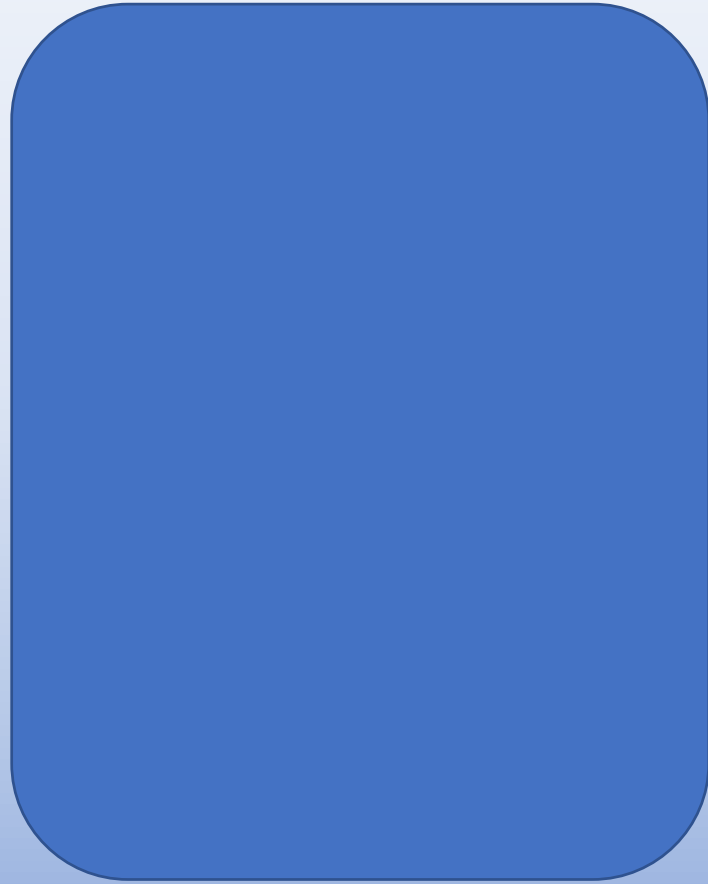


**ay** 



▶ 0:03 / 0:03   

Children practise their oral  
blending.

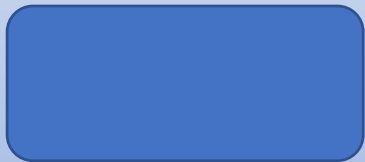


# Segment to spell

- We then teach how to segment to spell.

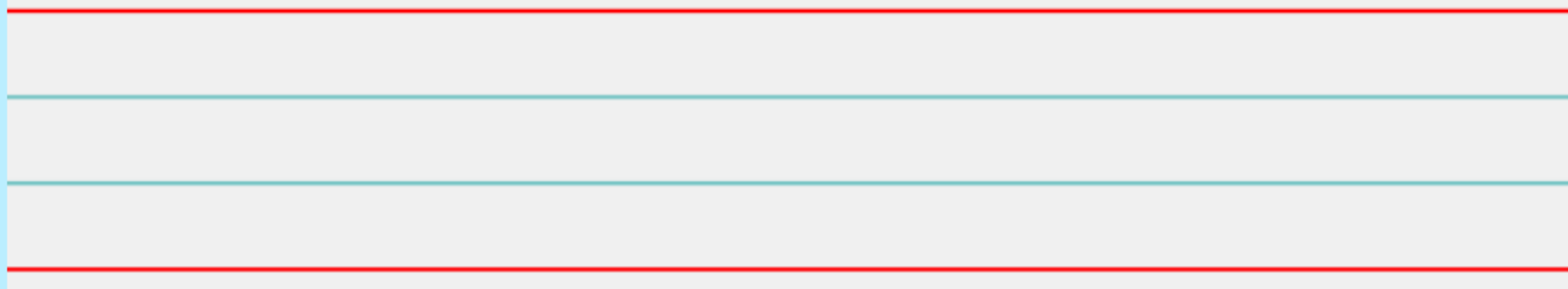


A set of three horizontal writing lines. The top and bottom lines are red, and the middle two lines are green. The lines are empty, intended for writing a word to be segmented.



# Letter formation practise




ay

A set of four horizontal lines for handwriting practice. The top and bottom lines are red, and the two middle lines are green. The space between the lines is white, providing a guide for letter height and placement.

# Segmenting practise

- Children then have a go at spelling some words with our focus sound


Segmenting practise Can you spell the words? Your turn



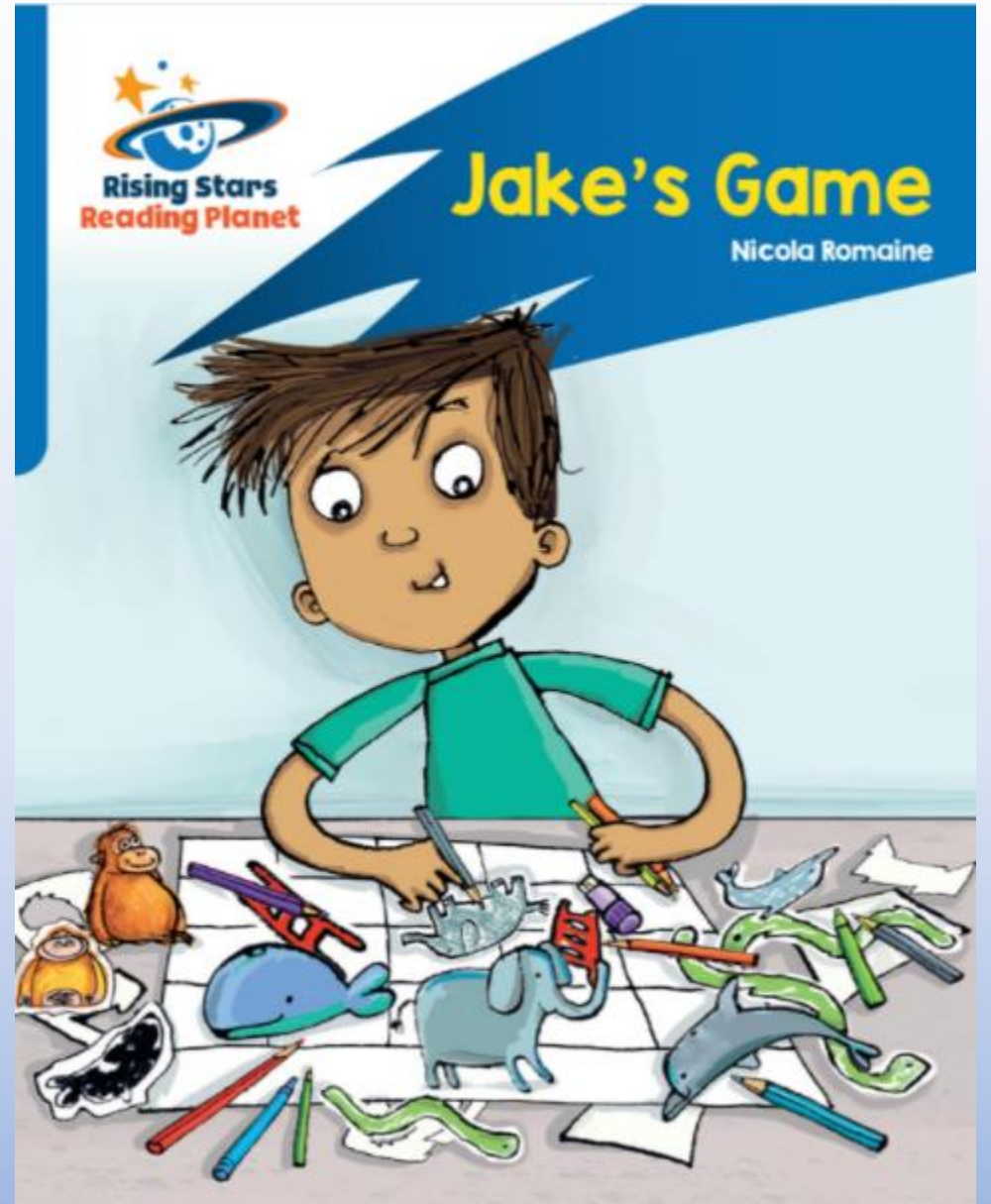
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★Challenge - Can you spell...  ?

# Reading with your child



- Ask questions!
- Talk about the front cover.
- Look at the sounds and tricky words in the book.

## **In this book**

**Your child will practise these key sounds:**

**wh** (as in **whisk**)

**ph** (as in **elephant**)

**ay** (as in **play**)

**a-e** (as in **game**)

**Your child may need help with these words:**

**out**

**little**

**said**

**one**

**some**

**have**

Look at the pictures together before you start reading.

Encourage your child to track with their finger.

Ask your child to sound out words that they find tricky.

Read it back to your child fluently so they can follow the story.

It was a dull day. Mum had been in meetings all morning, and Jake was fed up.

“When can we play a game?” Jake asked.  
“Can you get the crayons out, Jake?”  
said Mum.



# Part 1- Reading and phonics

# Part 2- Reading for pleasure

 High Will Low Skill	High Will High Skill 
Low Will Low Skill 	Low Will High Skill 





You are not alone!

• **Declining Youth Engagement:** In the UK, 2025 survey data shows the lowest levels of reading enjoyment (32.7%) since 2005. Only 18.7% of 8- to 18-year-olds report reading daily, a 20-percentage point drop since 2005.

• **Gender and Demographic Gaps:** Girls (58%) are more likely to enjoy reading than boys (43%). In 2023, 43.8% of children not receiving free school meals enjoyed

The logo consists of the words "GO", "ALL", and "IN." stacked vertically in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is contained within a white square that is partially cut off by the dark blue background of the slide, appearing as if it's a sticker on a corner.

National  
Year of  
Reading  
2026

# So what can we do to engage our children in reading?

Reading community – Theresa

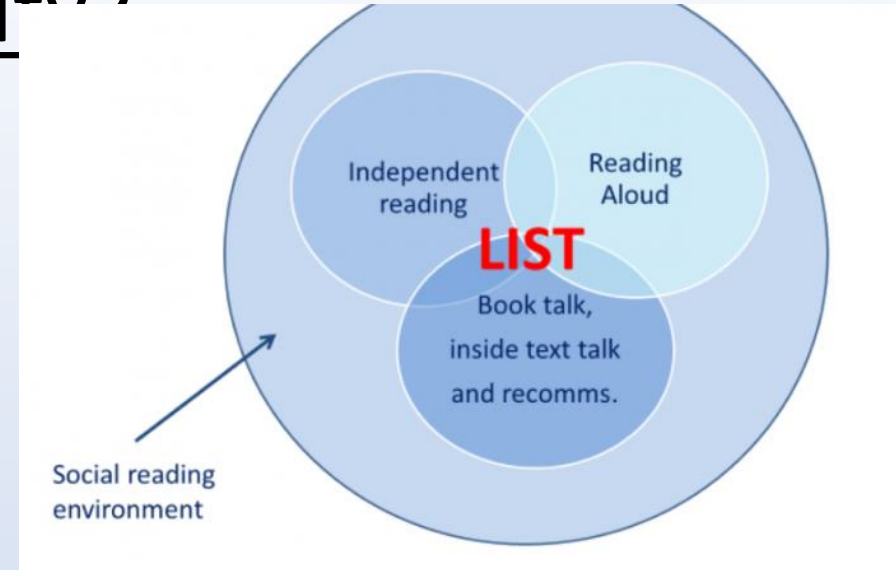


**GO  
ALL  
IN.**

National  
Year of  
Reading  
2026

# How can we make our children feel as though they are part of a reading community?

- Book Talk
- Book recommendations
- Read Aloud
- Independent Reading



**GO  
ALL  
IN.**

National  
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Reading  
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# Book Talk

- Having the opportunity to share opinions and reviews on what they are reading.
- Opportunity to offer recommendations
- Act, hot seat and summarise what has been read.



# Book recommendations

- Knowing what a child would like to read based on what they have enjoyed
- Books for topics
- Love reading for kids
- Amazon Book Lists

50 Recommended Reads for...  
**Year 1** (ages 5-6)

2025-2026 Booklist

Books for Topics

SCAN ME

Or visit [www.booksfortopics.com/year-1](http://www.booksfortopics.com/year-1) to find the online booklist, book pack, reviews and resources

Find booklists by age or topic at [booksfortopics.com](http://booksfortopics.com)

Books for Topics

# Read Aloud-

- Story time with your child
- Sharing your reading for pleasure books
- Having you as a reading role model
- Using free read alouds from YouTube
- Cbeebies bedtime stories



## Vicky McClure - Duck in the Truck

Vicky McClure reads Duck in the Truck by Jez Alborough.

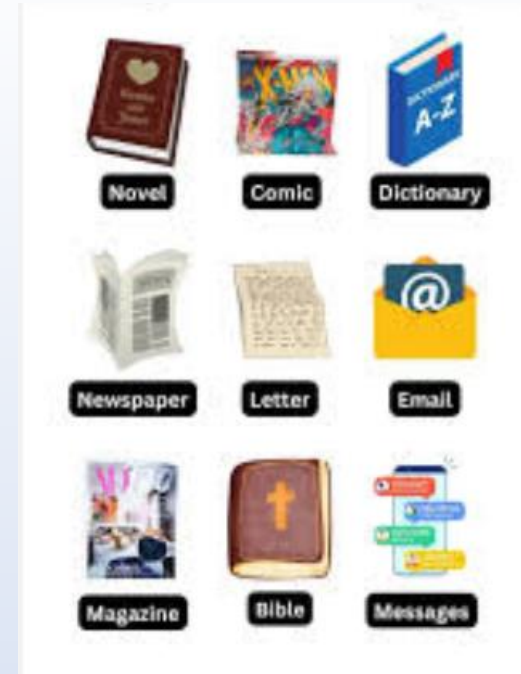


# Independent Read-

-Free choice to read books that interest your child.

-An opportunity to look at images and come up with narrative.

-Remind children that reading in any format is ok and celebrated.



**GO  
ALL  
IN.**

National  
Year of  
Reading  
2026

National  
Literacy  
Trust

Change your story

# Children and young people's reading in 2024

National  
Literacy  
Trust

Change your story

Reading for  
pleasure among  
children and  
young people is  
in crisis.

Just 1 in 3 children  
and young people  
aged 8 – 18 say  
they enjoy reading  
in their free time.

Only 1 in 5 children  
and young people  
are reading daily  
in their free time

Reading enjoyment has  
declined across all age  
groups. The steepest  
drop in reading  
enjoyment is among  
those aged 11 – 16.

The gap between  
the number of  
girls and boys who  
enjoy reading has  
nearly tripled in  
the last year.

We now invite you to read a story with your child and ask any questions that you may have 😊

Thank you for your time!