

## Early Reading and Phonics

### Our Phonics Programme

At Aston Rowant CE Primary School, we teach early reading through **Rocket Phonics**, a Department for Education validated systematic synthetic phonics (SSP) programme.

Rocket Phonics is a structured, step-by-step programme which introduces sounds in a carefully sequenced way, enabling children to develop confidence and enjoyment in reading from the very beginning.

We are committed to ensuring that every child grows to become a fluent, confident reader, regardless of their starting point.

### How We Teach Phonics

Phonics is taught daily in EYFS and Key Stage 1 through engaging, structured sessions.

Each session includes:

- Revisiting previously taught sounds
- Teaching new grapheme–phoneme correspondences (GPCs)
- Blending sounds to read words
- Segmenting words for spelling
- Reading words and sentences
- Opportunities for immediate practice and application

Lessons are fast-paced, interactive and designed to develop speaking, listening and reading skills together.

### Reading Books and Practice

Children read fully decodable Rocket Phonics books that are carefully matched to their phonics knowledge.

These books:

- Follow the same sequence as phonics teaching
- Build confidence and fluency
- Allow children to experience early success
- Become gradually more complex as children progress

Children are encouraged to read regularly at school and at home, developing both accuracy and enjoyment.

### Supporting All Learners

We believe in **'keep up, not catch up'**.

Children who need additional support receive:

- Short, focused daily "keep-up" sessions
- Targeted teaching to address specific gaps
- Additional opportunities to practise blending and segmenting

This ensures that children keep pace with their peers and build confidence quickly.

### Phonics Beyond Key Stage 1

Phonics teaching continues for any child who needs it beyond KS1.

In Key Stage 2, we provide:

- Targeted phonics intervention sessions
- Age-appropriate Rocket Phonics books with mature content

- Fluency, vocabulary and decoding support
- Creative approaches such as morphology, vocabulary investigation and reading in real texts

We ensure that:

- Children remain fully included in the wider curriculum
- Resources are respectful of children's age and dignity
- Phonics support builds confidence and independence

### **Assessment**

Assessment is ongoing and used to ensure teaching meets the needs of all pupils.

This includes:

- Daily formative assessment within lessons
- Regular review and monitoring
- Half-termly phonics checks
- Ongoing tracking of reading progress

### **Phonics Screening Check**

In Year 1, children take the **statutory Phonics Screening Check**, which assesses their ability to decode words using phonics skills.

Children who do not meet the expected standard continue to receive phonics support into Year 2 and beyond, ensuring they become confident readers.

### **Working in Partnership with Parents**

We recognise the importance of strong home–school partnerships in developing reading.

Parents are encouraged to:

- Read regularly with their child
- Practise blending sounds
- Re-read books to build fluency
- Celebrate progress and success