



Reading Planet Rocket Phonics

Case Study from Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust



"It is a joy to teach from Rocket Phonics"

Kiran Satti,
Assistant Principal

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DfE approved

risingstars-uk.com/rocketphonics

Holyhead Primary Academy, Wednesbury

“Reading Planet Rocket Phonics was launched at Holyhead Primary Academy in September 2021. Our school had previously used Letters and Sounds and this had mixed reviews however staff were very comfortable with it and a little reluctant to change. Some staff found the introduction of a new phonics scheme a bit nerve-wracking. I am pleased to say, things ran smoothly and have gone from strength to strength.

The detailed planning was so helpful at the beginning and made staff feel confident to deliver the programme and staff really enjoyed the flexibility of the planning too – as the weeks went on, staff started adapting the planning to suit their groups. The Facebook group was great; staff had the chance to talk to other professionals across the country who were using the programme too. Top tips and ideas were shared and used. Some of our staff also joined the webinars which also gave helpful hints to support teaching.

Children thoroughly enjoy their Rocket Phonics sessions including the interventions groups we ran for some of our Key Stage 2 children. They have loved working through the workbooks and reading from the Big Books was a big highlight in the lessons.

We had a recent OFSTED and as part of the inspection we had a ‘deep dive’ in Early Reading and Phonics. This was a success. **Inspectors were able to see how much the children loved the phonics lessons, how confident the staff were at delivering the sessions, the high-quality resources and the progress made by the pupils.** Our recent phonics screening data is something that we are also very proud of with 80% passing the test in Year 1, and those who did not quite manage to meet the threshold still made outstanding progress.

Parents and children have also loved the readings books that we send home. They have been fun, vibrant and interesting for the children. Even the most reluctant readers have been eager to read the stories and have become familiar with the popular characters in the stories.

I would highly recommend Rocket Phonics and am confident it will continue to go from strength to strength in the next academic year.”



Tameside Primary Academy, Wednesbury

“As part of our drive to raise standards at Tameside Primary Academy, the first training day in September 2021 was based around the importance of Early Reading provision and the implementation of Rocket Phonics. I delivered the training to all staff from every phase – EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. It was important for every teacher to see themselves as a teacher of Reading and Phonics.

The programme is grounded in research informed evidence, designed in a way to ensure progression through reading milestones and can be delivered in a way that children see themselves as readers and part of the stories.

The diversity featured in the Big Books, additional reading practice books and the Target Practice Readers is exceptional.

One of the most impactful facets of the Rocket Phonics programme is the series of fully decodable books as they chart incremental progress, aligning these with the Pupil Practice Booklets and highly detailed lessons plans ensures you are facilitating the children to develop their phonemic, phonological and fluency skill in depth and covering breadth.

The Progression Map produced also recognises the importance of the sequential development of phonemic and phonological awareness. From the beginning of a child’s reading learning journey, in Nursery, Rocket Phonics equips practitioners with the knowledge, sequencing, resources and support to ensure every child will experience reading success at each milestone – up to Year 2. The development of resources for Year 2 is excellent – the programme of study encompasses the core principles of word reading and comprehension which aligns with the end of year expectations for Year 2 children.

It is a joy to deliver training, facilitate the implementation as well as teach from the Rocket Phonics programme and resources – a true joy. Tameside Primary Academy’s 2022 Phonics Screening tests have met the National standard, which is an exceptional achievement for the children, families and learning community.”





Shireland Technology Primary Academy, Smethwick



“We started using Reading Planet Rocket Phonics in September 2021. Staff were given time to look at the available resources – both print and online and to plan for administering the baseline assessment and the phonics sessions that would be informed by that. Feedback from staff was that Rocket Phonics is easy to access because of the wealth of training and resources made available to them – Abigail Steel’s videos sharing how to pronounce each grapheme and the guidance for children with SEND have proven to be particularly useful. Our ECTs this year have found the CPD package clear and informative.

The Facebook group has been invaluable as staff have had an open forum to discuss teaching ideas, ask questions or share resources. Any questions are very quickly answered either by another member of the group or often by a member of the Rising Stars team or Abigail Steel. Abigail Steel has also created YouTube videos with in-depth answers to queries that have been raised on there.

Children thoroughly enjoy their Rocket Phonics sessions. The highlights for them are the Big Books, as they cannot wait to see how the stories develop each day and they are eager to read on.
All texts produced by Reading Planet Rocket

Phonics are high-quality and engaging. They are the first choice for both teachers and the children. The stories are interesting and exciting and much more thought has gone into them compared to other book schemes that I have seen over the years. Children also love using their Pupil Practice Booklets. They enjoy the independent application that the books allow them to exercise. Teachers can use them as an assessment tool and the booklets make it very clear which children require stretch and challenge and those who need further support. Children have become more familiar with tricky words this year and have mastered reading and spelling them. **The leadership team have seen a marked improvement with children’s writing and Rocket Phonics has definitely been one of the contributing factors.**

Parents enjoy the fully decodable texts and have also commented on how keen their children are now to continue their reading at home. As a result, our children have made excellent progress this year and we have had some real success with children who previously would have been reluctant readers. Our teachers have led sessions with our parents, sharing Rocket Phonics resources and the videos on how to pronounce the graphemes. As a school, we believe it is vital

that we empower our parents so that they feel prepared and confident when supporting their children at home.

After a difficult couple of years due to Covid and with a year group who experienced lockdowns and stints of home learning, we were over the moon with this year’s phonics screening results. Our children were fantastic and demonstrated the ability to confidently blend and segment both real and alien words. We are immensely proud of them and thankful that Rocket Phonics have now released their Year 2 programme so that this excellent progress can continue. We are in an incredibly strong position when it comes to Early Reading and phonics and we look forward to continuing the journey with Rocket Phonics.”



About Reading Planet Rocket Phonics



Reading Planet Rocket Phonics is a DfE validated story-based Systematic Synthetic Phonics programme based on the progression of the original Letters and Sounds. It's available now for Reception and Year 1 (P1–P2) with Next Steps for Year 2 (P3) new for 2022.

Our mission is to ensure every child can keep up rather than catch up. Rocket Phonics uses a straightforward approach to create transformative results:

- ★ Steady pace and progression so that knowledge and skills are embedded from the start
- ★ Whole-class mastery style teaching to ensure no child is left behind
- ★ Consistent daily practice of reading and writing to gradually build children's confidence
- ★ Teaching through original illustrated stories to develop phonics skills and a love of reading
- ★ Flexible yet structured teaching materials that can be adapted to suit the needs of every class

Written by educational consultant and phonics expert, Abigail Steel.



“With the programme, you will teach two letter-sounds a week steadily and continuously. Each letter-sound is taught over two days, with the first day focusing on blending for reading and the second day focusing on segmenting for spelling. This approach enables more practice of each core phonics skill without rushing to the next letter-sound.

Rocket Phonics is incredibly easy to use. There are no elaborate routines to get your head around or to suffocate your teaching. If you're new to teaching phonics or want full support, every single lesson is planned and scripted for you. If you're more experienced and confident, the weekly plan overviews will suit you better.”

Make an enquiry today 5

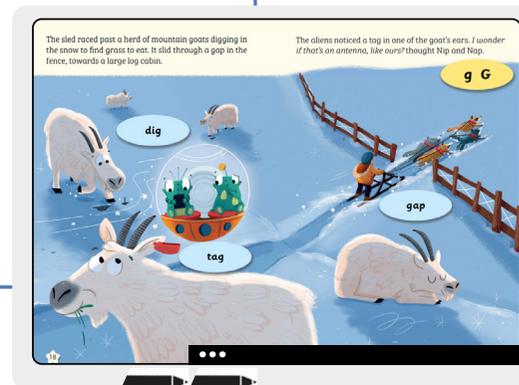
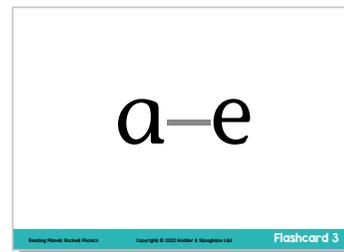
Reception–Year 1 (PI–P2)

Equip children for success in the Phonics Screening Check and meet or exceed National Curriculum Expectations for reading with a complete Systematic Synthetic Phonics programme.

- ★ Introduce two new letter-sounds per week to fully embed phonics knowledge and skills
- ★ Deliver separate blending and segmenting sessions for in-depth practice of these vital skills
- ★ Teach letter-sounds, explore vocabulary, and develop comprehension using online Teaching Big Books
- ★ Gradually build children’s confidence through daily practice of reading and writing
- ★ Implement whole-class, group guided or independent reading for targeted phonics practice

Good to know...

- ✓ Aligned to Letters and Sounds 2007 Phases 1–5
- ✓ Fully-decodable and aligned colour-banded reading books
- ✓ Covers spelling and handwriting
- ✓ Ready-to-use flashcards: no cutting required!
- ✓ Half-termly, mini and baseline assessments



Rocket Phonics Sounds Mat 1

s	sun	a	apple	t	tap	i	insect	p	pan
n	net	o	octopus	c	cat	m	mouse	d	dog
k	kite	ck	duck	e	elephant	u	umbrella	r	rabbit
b	bat	f	frog	ff	cliff	l	ladder	ll	shell
j	jug	v	van	w	web	x	fox	y	yellow
								z	zebra



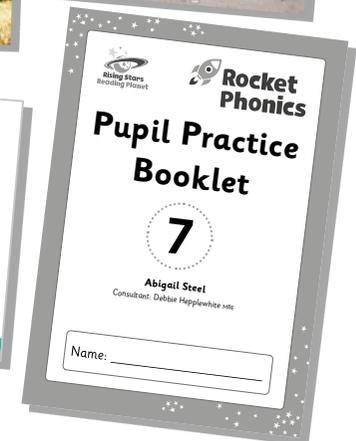
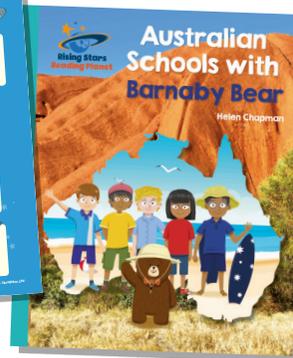
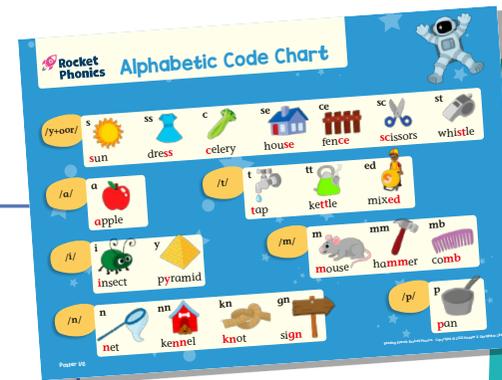
NEW Next Steps for Year 2 (P3)

Take children forward by consolidating phonics and developing key literacy skills in Year 2 (P3).

- ★ Build in National Curriculum requirements for Year 2 to ensure children meet and exceed age-related expectations
- ★ Use the established teaching and learning cycle (Review, Teach, Practise, Apply and Assess) to maintain consistency between year groups
- ★ Introduce and gradually develop cursive handwriting to support children in becoming confident writers
- ★ Equip children with essential literacy skills for the wider curriculum and the transition to Key Stage 2 (P4–P7) with a focus on phonics for spelling and writing
- ★ Use exciting fiction and non-fiction reading books to widen vocabulary and nurture a love of reading

Good to know...

- ✓ Aligned to Letters and Sounds 2007 Phase 6
- ✓ Covers National Curriculum spelling requirements
- ✓ Aligned colour-banded reading books
- ✓ Flashcards in interactive online format
- ✓ Half-termly, mini and baseline assessments



Make an enquiry today 7

We're here to help!

We understand that choosing a phonics programme is a big decision. So, our team is here to support you every step of the way.

Information and bespoke orders

Our team of local Sales Consultants are available virtually and in-person.

Make an enquiry at risingstars-uk.com/rocketphonics

Join the community

Share ideas, talk to other schools and get questions answered via our Teachers' Facebook Group.

You can also expect the odd freebie...!

Search 'Rocket Phonics Teachers Group' on Facebook.

CPD training

Our flexible in-person and online CPD training is delivered in partnership with Abigail Steel Training.

Learn more at risingstars-uk.com/rocketphonicsCPD



Meet the author

Follow Rocket Phonics author Abigail Steel on Twitter @Abigail_Steel to keep updated with her latest training courses, useful tips and CPD videos!

Free videos

Head to our YouTube channel for bitesize CPD, lesson demonstrations and more. Search Reading Planet Rocket Phonics on YouTube.