

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check 2027

A parent-friendly guide to what the check involves and how you can help at home

What is the phonics screening check?

- It is a short, statutory check of children's phonic decoding at the end of Year 1.
- It helps teachers see whether children can use the sounds and blending skills they have learned to read unfamiliar words.
- The check is about decoding words, not reading comprehension.

When will it happen?

- Schools must administer the 2027 check during the week beginning Monday 14 June 2027.
- Boarshaw will choose a suitable time during that week for each child.
- If a child is absent, statutory timetable-variation arrangements apply.

What will my child do?

- Read 40 words aloud to a familiar adult in school.
- There are two sections of 20 words.
- The words are a mixture of real words and pseudo-words (sometimes called alien words).
- Pseudo-words have a picture of an imaginary creature beside them so children know they are not real words.

What are children being asked to show?

- Recognise letters and groups of letters and say the sounds they represent.
- Blend those sounds together from left to right to read a word.
- Apply phonics to words they may never have seen before.
- Keep trying when words become more complex.

A reassuring point for children

The check is completed one-to-one and is designed to feel like a familiar reading activity. Children should simply use their phonics, have a go and do their best.



Easy ways to help at home

Short, positive practice makes the biggest difference.

1. Read together every day

- Share your child's school reading book and other books they enjoy.
- When they meet an unfamiliar word, encourage them to look carefully at the letters, say the sounds and blend them together.
- Praise effort and successful blending.

2. Practise sounds little and often

- Use the sound cards or resources sent home by school.
- Spot digraphs and trigraphs such as sh, ch, th, ee, oa and igh.
- Keep sessions short - five or ten positive minutes is enough.

3. Play with real and silly words

- Make up simple pseudo-words and ask your child to sound them out.
- Remind them that a made-up word does not need to make sense - it just needs to be decoded accurately.
- Take turns so it feels like a game.

4. Build confidence

- Avoid turning home practice into a test.
- If your child makes a mistake, return to the sounds and blend again.
- Celebrate persistence, improvement and enjoyment of reading.

What happens after the check?

Results and the expected standard

- The national threshold is set after the check has been administered, so the 2027 threshold is not known in advance.
- School will tell you whether your child has met the expected standard and will share their result as part of normal reporting arrangements.

If my child does not meet the standard

- This simply tells school that your child needs further support with phonics and early reading.
- They will continue to receive targeted teaching and practice.
- Children who have not met the expected standard normally take the screening check again in Year 2.

How Boarshaw supports children

- Children receive systematic phonics teaching and regular opportunities to apply phonics when reading.
- Teachers use ongoing assessment to identify sounds and blending skills that need more practice.
- Where children need additional help, support is matched to their stage of phonics learning.
- Appropriate arrangements can be made for eligible pupils with additional needs, in line with statutory guidance.

Every child a reader. Every Moment Matters.

If you have any questions about your child's phonics, please speak to their class teacher.