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Thursday 12th December 2024

Phonics Screen Check Information for Year 1 Parents

Dear Parents/Carers,

All Year 1 pupils are required to take part in the Phonics Screen Check, which will take place the week beginning 9th-13th June 2025. Please find below some information regarding the check.

What is the Phonics Screen Check?

The phonics screening check is a check of your child's phonics knowledge. It helps your school confirm whether your child is making the progress expected in the national curriculum. The phonics screening check contains 40 words, divided into two sections of 20 words. Both sections contain a mixture of real words and pseudo-words. Pseudo-words are words that are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning. Pseudo-words are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using their phonics skills. Pupils are familiar with these words and often call them alien words.

What is the purpose of the Phonics Screen Check?

The check is designed to give teachers information on how your child is progressing in phonics. It will help to identify whether your child needs additional support at this stage so that they do not fall behind in this vital early reading skill.

What happens during the Phonics Screen Check?

The check will be administered by a familiar adult during the week beginning Monday 9th June. Each child will be required to decode each word and read this to an adult. All pupils have already started to familiarise themselves with this assessment format and therefore will be unaware that the actual check is taking place.

What if my child does not reach the standard in year 1?

If a pupil does not meet the expected standard at the end of year 1, a programme of support will be put in place and pupils will re-take the check again in June 2026 (in Year 2).

Do I need to do anything to prepare my child for the check?

The most important things parents can do to help support their child, is to ensure they are reading as often as possible at home. Daily reading is strongly encouraged and will help to improve your child's decoding skills.

Reading for pupils in Key Stage 1 should be approximately 10 minutes each day. This allows pupils time to decode words, practise fluency (getting faster with their reading) and answering questions in the back of their reading books. Pupils should be encouraged to re-read books to help strengthen their understanding of the story and recall of words they found difficult when first reading the book.



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The grid below indicates which colour book band your child should be reading each half term. If your child is working below the expected level for their year group, they will hugely benefit from daily reading support at home.

	Book Band Colour Progression					
	Autumn half-term 1	Autumn half-term 2	Spring half-term 1	Spring half-term 2	Summer half-term 1	Summer half-term 2
Reception	Pink		Red		Yellow	Blue
Year 1	Blue	Green		Orange		
Year 2	Turquoise		Purple		Gold	White

Will I receive feedback on my child's check?

Yes, you will find out whether your child has met the expected standard in their end of year report.

If you are unsure of anything or have any questions, please let me know.

Kind regards,
 Miss Riaz,
 Key Stage 1 and English Lead