



Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear parents/carers,

The phonics screening check is for all children in Year 1 and those in Year 2 who need to retake the check. This is a quick and easy check to assess your child's phonics knowledge and helps us in school to confirm whether they have made the expected progress and what, if any, additional support may be needed. This year the check will take place during the week commencing **Monday 10th June 2024**.

### What is Phonics?

Phonics is an effective way of teaching children to read. By ensuring high quality phonics teaching, we want to improve literacy levels and give all children a solid base to build on as they progress through school.

Through phonics children are taught how to:

- recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes
- identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make - such as 'sh' or 'oo'
- blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word

Children can then use this knowledge to 'decode' new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.

### What is the phonics screening check?

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. Your child will be familiar with these words and may refer to them as alien words or nonsense words.

Your child will sit with a teacher he or she knows and be asked to read 40 words aloud. Your child may have read some of the words before, while others will be completely new. The check normally takes just a few minutes to complete and there is no time limit. If your child is struggling, the teacher will stop the check. The check is carefully designed not to be stressful for your child.

[Phonics screening check 2024: information for parents \(text only version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### Do we get to know the results?

We will let you know the results as part of your child's end of year report during the summer term. If your child does not meet the expected standard in the check, they'll get to have another go next year.

### Do we need to prepare at home?

No – your child is being taught phonics at school and no special work at home is needed.

*However, you can always help your child by:*

- Reading to and with them and supporting them with their phonics homework
- Playing sound and reading games
- Teaching them new words, and showing them how they're written

Contact the school If you have any questions or want to talk further about the phonics screening check, please contact us by emailing the school office and your child's class teacher will be happy to support you.

Yours sincerely,  
Year 1 Team

# A Guide for Parents... Year One Phonics Screening Check

## What is Phonics?

Children begin to learn phonics (sounds) in Early Years both Nursery and Reception. Once children begin learning sounds, these sounds are used orally to identify and make words. They will then begin to learn the letters which make each of the sounds and these are used to read and spell words.

For this reason, the first initial sounds that are taught are 's', 'a', 't', 'p', 'i', 'n'. These can immediately be blended for reading to make simple CVC words (consonant, vowel, consonant) e.g. sat, pin. Children then develop segmenting for writing skills; breaking the word into sounds to spell it out.

## What is the Phonics Screening Check?

Children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the same week in June. Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when in Year 1 or they have not taken the test before.

Headteachers should decide whether it is appropriate for each of their pupils to take the phonics screening check. The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.

### What Happens During the Screening?

The test contains 40 words. Each child will sit one-to-one and read each word aloud to a teacher. The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child, although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace. The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words).

### Pseudo Words (Nonsense Words)

The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This provides the children with a context for the pseudo word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have. Pseudo words are included because they will be new to all pupils; they do not favour children with a good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words.

### Reporting to Parents

By the end of the summer term all schools must report each child's results to their parents. They will also confirm if the child has met the standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in Year 2.



### How Are the Results Used?

Results from the check will be used by schools to analyse their own performance and for Ofsted to use in inspections.

“ Read as much as possible to and with your child. ”

### How Can I Help My Child at Home?

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise – get them to have a 'good guess'.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each one, e.g. /c/ in cat, /p/ in pat, /ng/ in sing, /ee/ in been.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.