

Phonics Screening Workshop 2026





Reading Changes Everything

“Teach a child to read and
keep that child reading and
we will change everything...
and I mean everything.”
Jeanette Winterson

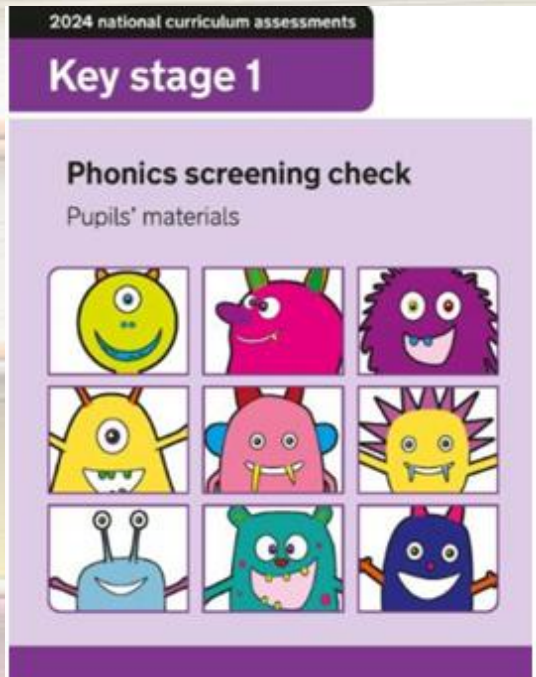
Some statistics

In 2018, research found that nearly 90% of children who passed the phonics check taken in Year 1 reached or exceeded the expected standard in reading in Year 6.

Accurate word reading at age 6 is a good predictor of future reading success.



What is the Phonics Screening Check?



- A word-reading assessment taken during the week commencing 8th June 2026.
- Children read 40 words - 20 real words and 20 non-real words, either by sight or using grapheme knowledge and blending.
- The check takes no more than 10 minutes and is done on a 1:1 basis.
- The pass mark is usually 32 words read correctly.
- If they do not manage to read 32 of the words, they are given they will have additional support and repeat the check at the end of Year 2.
- The aim is that all children will be able to read accurately before they begin Year 3.
- All children are individuals, and all develop at different rates. The screening check ensures that teachers understand which children need extra help with phonic decoding. They have not failed!


Nonsense or “alien” words


- Unlike real words children need to rely purely on their grapheme knowledge and blending skills to read the words
- “Alien” words are included in phonics sessions from as early as the Spring term in Reception, so it is a very familiar concept.

Practise Quit activity ✕

Read the word. Click on the icon to reveal the picture.

hilk





< Back 8 of 11 Next >

shig 

joil 

What does it look like?

Section 1

dup



hib



gox



ags



Section 1

quiz

sell

form

shark

The test booklet contains 40 words. 20 are real words and 20 are nonsense words. The child has the book in front of them and the teacher scores them on a separate sheet.

What will it be like for your child?

- The phonics screening check will happen with your child's class teacher or Mrs Bishop or Mrs Clifford.
- We will call the Phonics Screening check-a Phonics Quiz with the children. It feels like a low stakes quiz as we practise so much together!
- If your child needs a quick brain break halfway through the quiz, we will have a fun activity ready for them, before continuing with the rest of the quiz.

How are the results used?

- Teachers will gain a clearer understanding of who needs support with decoding/blending.
- If children do not pass in Year One, they re-take the phonics screening in Year 2.
- Parents will have an understanding of whether their child is on track with their reading skills (results will be shared with parents in end of year reports).
- Results from the check will be used by schools to analyse their own performance and for Ofsted to use in inspections.

What can you do to help?

- Continue to read at least 4 times per week with your child using the reading record to log this and raise any queries or support needs with your child's class teacher
- Encourage and praise - get them to have a 'good guess'.
- If your child is struggling to read a word, remind them to say each sound and listen carefully to hear the word.
- If your child sometimes rushes and mispronounces words, encourage them to slow down and try again, rather than just offering the correct word or ignoring the mistake.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.
- If your child is not in the mood for reading let them be the expert! You can do more of the reading but ask for their help sounding out and reading a word or two on each page until they have warmed up and can take over from you.





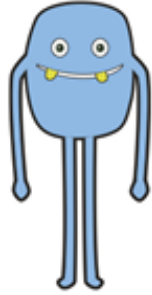
Have a go....

Section 1

nop



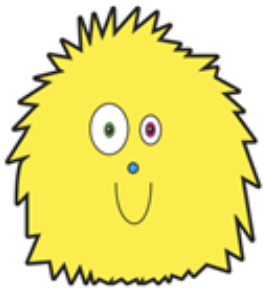
yim



zeg



ild

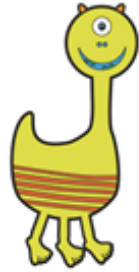


Section 1

brop



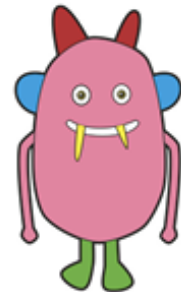
sleen



sint



doilt



Section 1

shin

fang

sort

chill

Section 1

fled

speck

ramp

corns

Section 2

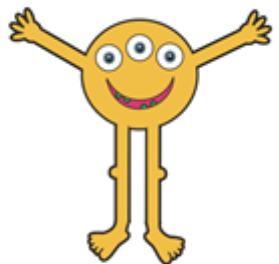
blenk



froast



scrup



sprace



Section 2

plank

shrimp

split

stripe

relay

ending

dolphin

crackers