

What is the phonics screening check?

The national phonics screening check was introduced in 2012 to all Year 1 pupils in the country. It is a short, statutory assessment to ensure that children are making sufficient progress in phonics skills to read words. It also ensures that children are on track to become fluent readers who enjoy reading for pleasure and for learning.

When will the phonics screening take place?

The check will take place during the week commencing Monday 12th June.

How does the check work?

Your child will sit with a familiar adult and will be asked to read 40 words aloud. The test normally takes a few minutes. The check consists of a list of 40 words, half real words and half nonsense words, the nonsense words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This not only makes the check a bit more fun but provides the children with a context for the nonsense word. If your child is struggling the teacher will stop the check. The check is carefully designed not to be stressful for your child.

Why alien words?

Alien words are important to include as they can't be read using their vocabulary or from memory; they have to use their decoding skills. This is a fair way to assess all children's ability to decode.

After the check.

We will inform you on your child's progress towards the end of the summer term. Children who have not met the standard will retake the check when they are in Year 2. All children are individuals, and all develop at different rates. The screening check ensures that teachers understand which children need extra help with decoding.

You can help us to make a difference this half-term!

Dear parents/ carers,

Your child has made super progress in their reading this year.

Let's keep them reading this half-term for maximum success in the Phonics Screening Check.

What can you do to help at home?

1. Help your child to use 'Special Friends', 'Fred Talk' to read words when they are unsure.
2. Practise reading sounds speedily (these can be found in the front of the story books).
3. Listen to your child read their Storybook every day (where possible).
4. Read back each page to them, after they have read the page.
5. Encourage your child to read the story on multiple occasions to increase their fluency.
6. Practise the alien words which are part of the children's homework every week.
7. If your child's class teacher is sending 'Virtual Classroom videos', please ensure you are doing these together regularly.

Find more free parent resources on www.ruthmiskin.com

Online games your child may enjoy playing:

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/3/buried-treasure>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/3/dragons-den>

Please select any phase from 3 -5.

We value all the support you are providing.

Thank you again,
Mrs Colwill & Mrs Westwell – Year 1 Teachers
Mrs Donaghy – Phonics & Early reading lead.