

St Bart's Quick Guide To: The Phonics Screening Check



What is the Phonics Screening Check?

All Year 1 pupils in England take the phonics screening check. It is carried out by our school staff. The check is made up of 40 words and usually lasts around 5-10 minutes. Some of the words in the check are real words and some are not real words and are what we call 'alien' or 'nonsense' words. Children need to use their reading skills and phonetical understanding to read the words correctly. The test includes 'nonsense' words to check if children can decode and read words they haven't seen before.

The check helps us to see:

- How pupils are progressing in phonics
- Where we need to provide additional teaching and support

When will the check be happening?

Children will do the check the week beginning the 9th of June. It is very important that children attend school at all times—especially during this week.



Will you get to know the results?

We have to report the results to our Local Authority towards the end of June. We will inform parents/carers of their child's results in the end of year report at the end of the summer term.

All children learn at different stages and some children may not reach the score to achieve the required standard of the check. These children will get to have another go the following summer when they are in Year 2. This is nothing to worry about and these children will be receiving additional help and intervention to enable them to catch up.

Do you need to prepare at home?

Your child is being taught phonics every day at school and at home you can help by:

- ♦ Reading to them.
- ♦ Listening to them read their school reading book as much as possible.
- ♦ Teaching them new words and showing how they are written.

Where can you find further information?

There is lots of information about phonics on the 'families' section of the school website. Click on the families tab and then select 'phonics and reading' in the drop down menu.

There are videos of how the different sounds are pronounced and clips of children learning phonics in school. If you have any questions please feel free to speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs McCaffrey (Assistant Headteacher).



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