

Y1 Phonics Screening

Phonics screening check information and results

What is the phonics screening check?

The phonics screening check is a quick check of your child's ability to decode words using only his or her phonic knowledge. It helps us to confirm whether your child has met the expected standard for a child at the end of Year 1 in normal circumstances.

The check is a statutory requirement for all children in Year 1 and takes place each year in the summer term. Children who did not take the check in Year 1, or who did not meet the expected standard, will take the check again at the end of Year 2.

How does the check work?

- Your child was asked to read 40 words aloud to a teacher who is known to him/her.
- Your child may have read some of the words before, while others would have been completely new.
- The check took only a few minutes to complete and there was no time limit.

Meeting the expected standard

In order for children to demonstrate that they have met the expected standard in phonic decoding they had to score a minimum number of marks in the phonics screening check. Children who scored fewer than the minimum threshold are considered not to have met the expected standard in phonic decoding. Any child who has not met the expected standard will be given additional support in phonics to help him or her to improve. The nature of this support will vary depending on how close to the threshold he/she was.

What happens next if your child did not meet the minimum standard?

Your child will continue to learn phonics with his/her classmates on a daily basis. The screening check is designed to help teachers identify which children need help with phonic decoding. Depending on his/her learning needs, your child may be given additional resources or input. In addition to the daily phonics session in class, your child may take part in additional catch up sessions throughout the week.

Your child will take the phonics check again at the end of their time in Year 2, so that the school can make sure again that the support and help given to your child has been successful, or is continuing appropriately.

Can I help my child with phonics?

Children make the best use of their understanding of phonics when they are given plenty of encouragement and learn to enjoy reading a wide variety of books and other forms of writing. Parents play a very important part in helping with this.

Some simple steps to help your child learn to read through using phonics successfully:

- Ask your child's class teacher about the school's approach to teaching phonics and how you can reinforce this at home. For example, the teacher will be able to tell you which letters and sounds the class is covering in lessons each week.
- When reading, encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend the sounds together from left to right, rather than looking at the pictures to guess the word. Once your child has read an unfamiliar word you can talk about what it means and help him/her to follow the story.
- Try to make time to read something with your child every day and encourage other family members and friends to do the same. Support your child to blend the sounds together all the way through a word.
- Keep reading all the time, wherever you are, including the school holidays when children don't have a home reading book from school. Look for as many opportunities as possible to encourage your child to use the skills they are learning – menus and leaflets and on-screen text can stimulate children to want to practise their phonic knowledge.

Word games like 'I-spy' can also be an enjoyable way of teaching children about sounds and letters as can talking about all the words which surround you, from road signs to shopping lists. If children become aware of the uses of reading, they become much more interested in practising what they know.