

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Year 1 Phonics Screening Check – Parent Support Guide

As part of your child’s learning in Year 1, they will take part in the Phonics Screening Check later this year. This is a short, informal assessment that helps us understand how well children are learning to read using phonics.

We greatly value your support at home—just a few minutes each day can make a big difference!

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What is the Phonics Screening Check?

- A short, one-to-one check with a teacher
- Your child will read 40 words aloud
- Some are real words, and some are “alien” (nonsense) words to check decoding skills
- It is designed to be fun and low-pressure

How You Can Help at Home

1. Practise Little and Often

- 5–10 minutes daily is ideal
- Keep sessions short, positive, and relaxed

2. Support Sound Recognition

- Ask your child: “*What sound does this letter make?*”
- Focus on pure sounds (e.g. “*sss*” not “*suh*”)

3. Blend Sounds Together

- Encourage your child to say sounds and blend them:
  - *d-o-g* → *dog*
- Use your finger to point to each letter as they say the sound

4. Read Together

- Listen to your child read regularly
- Praise effort, not just accuracy
- Re-read familiar books to build confidence and fluency

#### 5. Practise “Alien Words”

- Make it fun! Pretend you are reading words from a different planet 🧑🌎
- Encourage decoding rather than guessing

#### 6. Play Phonics Games

- Sound hunts around the house
  - Matching games (word to picture)
  - Online phonics games (ask your teacher for recommended sites)
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#### Helpful Tips


- If your child gets stuck, encourage them to sound it out
  - Avoid telling them the word straight away—give them time to try
  - Celebrate success and keep it fun!
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#### Example Questions to Ask

- “Can you spot a digraph (two letters making one sound)?”
  - “Can you blend these sounds together?”
  - “What happens if we change this sound?”
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Thank you for your continued support!


The Year 1 Team


 **Phonics Flashcards (Little Wandle – Phase 5)**

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 **Phase 5 Sound Flashcards (Alternative GPCs)**

ay	ou	ie	ea
oy	ir	ue	aw
wh	ph	ew	oe
au	ey	a-e	e-e
i-e	o-e	u-e	

 *Ask: "What sound is this?"*

 *Challenge: "Can you think of a word with this spelling?"*

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 Real Word Flashcards (Phase 5)


play	cloud	pie	sea
boy	girl	blue	saw
when	phone	new	toe
Paul	key	make	these
like	home	rule	cute
train	shout	chief	dream
float	storm	chew	spoke
slide	cube		

 *Encourage:* spot the **alternative spelling** and blend carefully

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 Alien (Nonsense) Word Flashcards (Phase 5)

zay	voust	tream	ploat
smeek	doyn	phane	kwew
broal	shue	trie	glayp
smeat	floam	proke	snewt
voil	chuep	thrail	spoaf

 *Tip:* These help children practise **decoding unfamiliar words**

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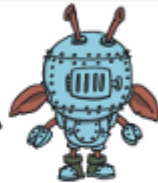


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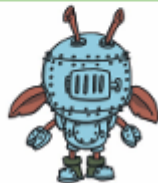


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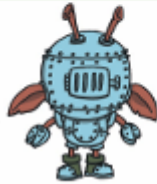


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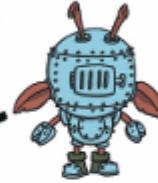
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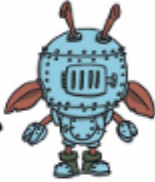
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