

Year 1 Phonics Screening

Guide for Parents and Carers



What is Phonics?

Phonics is an established way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully.

Beginning in the early years, your child will be taught how to:

- distinguish sounds in words;
- recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes;
- identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make, such as 'sh' or 'oo';
- blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can use this knowledge to 'decode' new words that they hear or see. They will then develop skills in segmenting for writing, breaking the word into sounds to spell it out.

What is the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check?

The Phonics Screening Check is designed to allow teachers to assess whether children have made good progress within their phonics learning and if they have reached an expected standard by the end of Year 1.

The Phonics Screening check will help identify children who have not learnt to decode using phonics by the end of Year 1.

It is up to individual headteachers to decide whether some pupils within school might be exempt from taking the Phonics Screening Check. This decision will be shared with parents prior to the screening taking place.

Week commencing 9th June, all year 1 children are expected to complete the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check. If your child is absent from school during that week, they will take it within timetable variation week commencing 16th June.

What Happens During the Screening?

The Phonics Screening Check is designed not to be stressful for your child. We have prepared children well for it and it will not be referred to as a 'test'.

The screening will take around 10 minutes per child, although children are allowed to work at their own pace and there is no time limit. If your child is struggling, the teacher can stop the check.

Each child will sit one-to-one with an adult and will be asked to read the screening words out loud.

The screening contains 40 words. Some of these words are real words and some are 'non-words', 'nonsense words.' (Also referred to as 'alien words' or 'pseudo words'.)

Children will be prepared for the fact that some of the words will not be real words and these words are identifiable during the test by having a small image of an alien next to them.

These 'non-words' are important because all children will need to use their decoding skills to read them as they will have not been learnt by sight.



Examples of the screening words

This is what the screening check will look like for the children. This is an example of some Level 3 and Level 4 words.

braft



thrant



sprop



strow



shed

long

soil

chart

Reporting to Parents and Carers

We must report the results of the Phonics Screening Check to parents and carers before the end of the summer term. You will be informed of your child's result in their end of year report.

We will advise you on how your child has scored and if your child has struggled to meet the expected standard in the test.

Children who do not pass the Phonics Screening Check in year 1 will go on to retake it in year 2.



How Are the Results Used?

The data collected from the screening is used within the school to provide assessment of children's decoding skills. It is also a requirement that the results are submitted to the Department For Education, where it is used to collate information about the standards of phonics across the country. The data might also be used during a school Ofsted inspection.



In preparation for the PSC

Identifying gaps in children's phonics knowledge gives us a picture of where children may be excelling or requiring extra support. Phonics assessments and a practise Phonics Screening check is carried out at the end of each half term.

Phonics Intervention groups will be carried out with children who are identified as needing extra support in the run up to the test.

Phonics Booster Sessions will be available for your child to take part in after Easter up until the Phonics Screening Check. These will take place before school at 8.30am- 8.50am. A consent letter will be sent home prior to the start of the sessions.

A practise phonics screening check will be sent home as homework every other week. Games and interactive activities will be also sent home as homework via Twinkl Go. You will receive log-in details for this in due course.

How Can you help?

Parents and carers play a vital role in fostering a love of books and an enjoyment of reading in their children.

- Play lots of listening games at home with your child.
- Read with your child as often as possible. Read to them and get them to read to you.
- When you listen to your child read, allow them time to attempt to decode unfamiliar words using the strategies they have learnt in schools, before jumping in to help them. If they continue to struggle you may support them by pointing out the sounds (not the letters) in a word. For example, the word 'sheep' would be 'sh-ee-p.'
- When you read to your child, model how you would attempt an unfamiliar word, discuss the meanings of the words that you and your child are reading and remember that it is very important to pronounce the words correctly.
- Encourage them with plenty of praise and try to make your reading time enjoyable.
- When you are out and about, ask your child to read traffic or shop signs. Allow them time to decode the words before stepping in.
- Keep reading activities short. It is much better to read little and often.
- **The most important thing is to remember to have fun!**

Websites and apps to support your child with phonics.

Phonics Play www.phonicsplay.co.uk

Teach Your Monster to Read www.teachyourmonstertoread.org

Top Marks www.topmarks.co.uk

ICT Games www.ictgames.co.uk

Phonics Bloom www.phonicsbloom.com

Reading Eggs www.readingeggs.com

Starfall Learn to Read www.starfall.com

Oxford Owl www.oxfordowl.co.uk

Any Questions?

