



Year 1 Phonics Screen

A Guide for Families

What is Phonics?

Children begin to learn Phonics (sounds) in Reception. As soon as children begin to learn sounds they are encouraged to use this knowledge to read and spell words. Children can then see the purpose of learning sounds. These can immediately be blended for reading to make simple CVC words (consonant, vowel, consonant) e.g. sat, pin. Children then develop segmenting for writing skills; breaking the word into sounds to spell it out.

What is the phonics Screen Check?

Children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the week commencing 12th June 2023. Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when in Year 1, or they have not taken the test before. The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt sufficient phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.

What happens during the test?

The test contains 40 words. The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 Alien words (nonsense words). Each child will sit one to one with a teacher and read each word aloud. The test will take approximately 10 minutes, although children are all different and will complete the check at their own pace.

Reporting to Parents

By the end of the summer term all schools must report their child's results to parents. They will also confirm if your child has met the standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test in Year 2.

How can you help your child at home?

- Support your child by helping them remember the phonics sounds. Regular practise helps your child apply these skills day-to-day.
- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to look for the 'special friends.' Special friends are 2 or more letters that make one sound. For example - In the word 'car' 'ar' are the special friends so instead of getting them to say c-a-r they will say c-ar.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.

The words below are examples of alien words your child might be asked to read.



Some useful websites:

- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/phonics/sandcastle/flash/game.shtml
- www.phonicsplay.co.uk
- <https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com>
- <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/how-can-i-support-my-child-with-phonics/>
- <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/kids-activities/learning-activities-age-5-6/>