



02.05.24

Dear Parent/Carers,

Phonics Screening Check in Year 1

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

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

What happens during the screening?

The test contains 40 words. Each child will sit one to-one and read each word aloud to a teacher. The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child, although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace. The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words). Your child may refer to these as 'alien' words.

How can I help my child at home?

The following [video](#) provides an excellent example of what the alien words will look like during the Phonics Screening Check. Please watch this with your child and have a go at sounding out the words - remember not to make the words into real words!

You can also:

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise your child – get them to have a 'good guess'.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right. Encourage your child to use [sound buttons](#) to help them read words.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each one, e.g. /c/ in cat, /p/ in pat, /ng/ in sing, /ee/ in been.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.



Other useful links:

Useful links:

TOPMARKS: [Phonics Screening](#)

PHONICS PLAY: [Buried Treasure](#)

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

PHONICS BLOOM- Phases 2-5 <https://www.phonicsbloom.com/uk/article/phonics-screening-check>

Finally, take a look at our [Phonics Screening Check word cards](#) to practise reading with your child.

Many thanks,

The Primary Team