

Year 1

Phonics Screening Check



What Is The Phonics Screening Check?

Children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the same week in June. 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. Head teachers should decide whether it is appropriate for each of their pupils to take the phonics screening check.

The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt sufficient phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.

The check this year will be taken between Monday 9th June to Friday 13th June.

What Happens During The Test?



The test contains 40 words.

Each child will sit one to one and read each word aloud to a teacher.

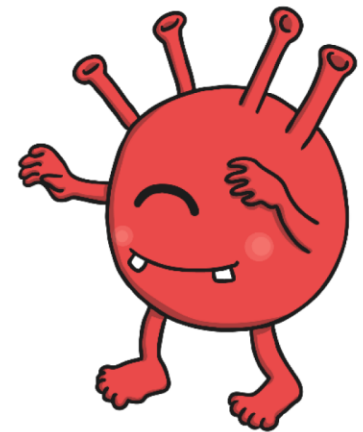
The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child; although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace.

The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words).

Pseudo Words (Nonsense Words)

The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This provides the children with a context for the pseudo word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have.

Pseudo words are included because they will be new to all pupils; they do not favour children with a good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words.



Example Of The Check

Practice sheet: Real Words

beg

[twinkl.co.uk](https://www.twinkl.co.uk)

at

[twinkl.co.uk](https://www.twinkl.co.uk)

sum

[twinkl.co.uk](https://www.twinkl.co.uk)

in

[twinkl.co.uk](https://www.twinkl.co.uk)

Example Of The Check

Practice sheet: Pseudo Words

vap



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osk



twinkl.co.uk

ot



twinkl.co.uk

ect



twinkl.co.uk

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 the child has met the standard threshold.

Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in Year 2.



How Are The Results Used?

Results from the check will be used by schools to analyse their own performance and for Ofsted to use in inspections.



How are we preparing for the Phonics Check in school?

- **Daily phonics lessons using Essential Letters and Sounds.**
- **Reminding children of our strategies that we use when decoding unknown words.**
- **Adding in sound buttons for some children when looking at unknown words.**
- **Flashcards practice.**
- **Phonics Play.**
- **Intervention groups.**

How Can I Help My Child At Home?

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
 - Read as much as possible to and with your child.
 - Encourage and praise – get them to have a ‘good guess’.
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- **Reinforce strategies that we practice within school e.g robot arms to practice blending.**
 - **Make phonics fun! Phonics Play!**
 - **Painting phonics sounds, or using chalk to write sounds.**

How Can I Help My Child At Home?

- 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.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each letter, e.g. /c/ in cat, or the letter group, e.g. /ng/ in sing. Next move your finger under the whole word as you say it.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.



Any questions?

Pupils should not take the check if they:

- Have shown no understanding of grapheme-phoneme correspondences
- Have not completed the first year of the KS1 English programme of study
- Have recently moved to the country and are unable to understand letters and sounds in English
- Use British Sign Language or other sign-supported communication, such as communication boards, to spell out individual letters
- Are non-verbal, or selectively mute
- Have been absent during the check window – if a pupil does not take the check during this period and returns to school after Friday 20 June, they must be recorded as absent