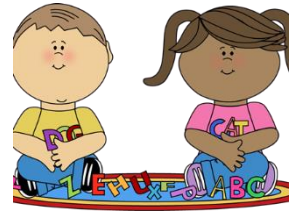


Year 1 phonics screening information



The Year 1 phonics screening check is not a formal test, but a way for teachers to ensure that children are making sufficient progress with their phonics skills to read words and that they are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and for learning.

The phonics screening check is taken by all children in Year 1. It is designed to give teachers and parents information on how your child is progressing in phonics. It will help to identify whether your child needs additional support at this stage so that they do not fall behind in this vital early reading skill.

There are two sections in this 40-word check and it assesses phonics skills and knowledge learned through Reception and Year 1. Your child will read up to four words per page for their teacher and they will do the check in about 5-10 minutes.

It checks that your child can:

- Sound out and blend graphemes in order to read simple words.
- Read phonically decodable one-syllable and two-syllable words, e.g. cat, sand, windmill.
- Read a selection of nonsense words which are referred to as pseudo words.

Pseudo and nonsense words are words that are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning e.g. brip, snorb. Pseudo words are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using phonics skills and not their memory.

The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of a monster and they will be asked to tell their teacher what sort of monster it is by reading the word. This not only makes the check a bit more fun, but provides the children with a context for the nonsense word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have. Crucially, it does not provide any clues, so your child just has to be able to decode it. Children generally find nonsense amusing so they will probably enjoy reading these words.

We will report your child's results to you by the end of the summer term as well as to the local authority, but the results won't be published in a league table as with SATs. If you have any concerns, do talk to your teacher about this in a parents' meeting or after school.

To help your child you can:

- Say each sound in the word from left to right.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each letter, i.e. /b/ in bat, or letter group, i.e. /igh/ in sigh, as you say the sound, then run your finger under the whole word as you say it.
- Talk about the meaning if your child does not understand the word they have read.
- Work at your child's pace.
- Always be positive and give lots of praise and encouragement.

What can you do to help your child?

Check with your child's teacher if there are any particular areas that you should focus on at home so that you are working together to support your child.

Visit the [Phonics made easy](#) page for further hints and tips to help you find out more about phonics and to hear the letter sounds, as well as how to help your child in the most effective way.

As a school we follow the Phonics Play scheme of work- you can access games and activities that follow your child's phonics from- <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>