

What is the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check?

(Please note; there will not be a Phonics Screening Check in Year 1 this year)

What is the phonics screening check?

The National phonics screening check is a statutory assessment that was introduced in 2012 to all Year 1 pupils and is a quick and easy check of your child's phonics knowledge.

Who is it for?

All Year 1 pupils will take the phonics screening check in 2019 during June, you will be informed of the week through the school newsletter nearer the time. Those children that did not pass the screening test in Year 1 and are now in Year 2 will also take the screening test in this week.

What is in the phonics screening check?

It comprises of a list of 40 real words and nonsense (alien) words. It will assess phonics skills and knowledge learnt through Reception and Year 1. Your child will read one-one with a teacher. It will be your child's current teacher so it is a familiar face. Your child will read up to 4 words per page and they will probably do the check in 10-15 minutes. They will be asked to 'sound out' a word and blend the sounds together. The check is very similar to tasks the children already complete during phonics lessons.

Is it stressful to test such young children?

The assessment will be age appropriate and the adults involved will all be familiar. The children are familiar with the set up as we are constantly reviewing children's progress in the same way. It should be an enjoyable activity for children, which takes no more than 15 minutes. There will be a few practise words at the beginning to make sure your child understands the activity.

What are Nonsense or Alien words and why are they included?

These are words that are phonetically decodable but not actual words with an associated meaning e.g. brip, snorb. These words are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using phonic skills and not their memory. The alien words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. The children will be asked what the alien's name is by reading the word. This will make the check a bit more fun and provides the children with a context for the nonsense word. Crucially it does not provide any

clues, so your child has to be able to decode it. Children generally find nonsense amusing so they will probably enjoy reading these words.

How will the results from the screening be used?

You will be informed of your child's progress in phonics and how he/she has done in the screening check in their end of summer term school report. All of the children are individuals and develop at different stages. The screening check ensures that teachers understand which children need support with decoding.

What happens if a child struggles with the screening check?

The screening check will identify children who have phonic decoding skills below the level expected for the end of Year 1 and who therefore need help. Schools are expected to provide extra help and children will then be able to re-take the assessment in Year 2.

How can I help my child?

There are a number of things that parents can do to support early reading development:

- Let your child see you enjoy reading yourself. They are influenced by you and what you do!
- Immerse your child in a love of reading.
- Make time for your child to read their school book to you.
- With all books, encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend from left to right rather than looking at pictures to guess

Useful Links for Parents

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk> Oxford Owl is a free website built to support you with your child's learning. You'll find age-specific reading and maths tips and activities, eBooks, and lots of fun ideas to really bring your child's learning to life. You will also find support and advice on a range of questions you may have including helping your child with their phonics, motivating boys to read and ensuring your child is doing their best in maths.

www.bookstart.co.uk This website provides information about the national Bookstart scheme and the Bookstart packs that your child will receive as a baby, a toddler and at age three to four. It also gives information about sharing books

with your child. You can find out about Bookstart events in your area, which you can attend with your child.

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/ParentsMenu.htm> Here you will find lots of information for parents about phonics including: what exactly phonics is, how it is taught in UK schools and suggestions for helping pre-schoolers prepare for learning phonics. You will also find lots of games and ideas to explore with children at home.

You can download a copy of the 2018 Phonics screening check and 2019 Phonics screening check from the gov.uk website, here.

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