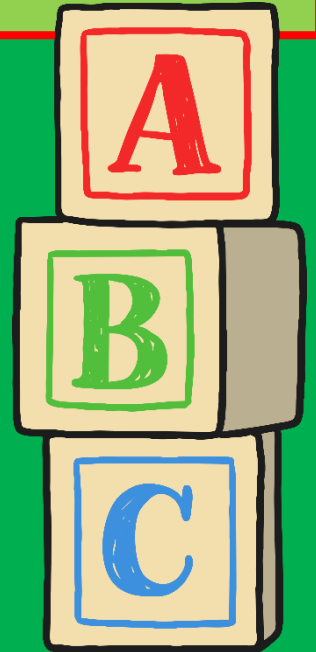


Year One

Phonics Screening Check

A Guide for Parents





Phonics Bug

What is phonics?

Phonics is one method of teaching children how to read and write.

Phonics is all about sounds. There are 44 sounds in the English language, which we put together to form words.

Some are represented by one letter, like 't', and some by two or more, like 'ck' in duck and 'air' in chair.

Children are taught the sounds first, then how to match them to letters, and finally how to use the letter sounds for reading and spelling.

Synthetic phonics refers to 'synthesising', or blending, the sounds to read words. It is based on the idea that children should sound out unknown words and not rely on their context.

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.



The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard. It is an assessment of phonemes (sounds), consonant blends and some alternative spellings of phonemes in phases 2, 3, 4 and phase 5.

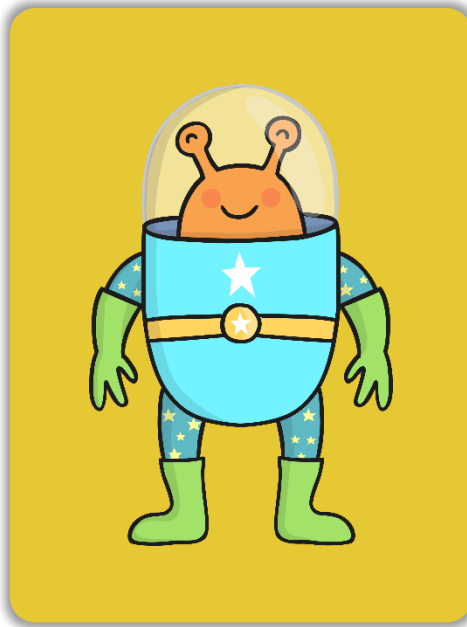
What Happens During the Test?

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.



Pseudo 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 alien words 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.



Practice sheet: Real words

in

at

beg

sum

Practice sheet: Pseudo words

ot



vap



osk



ect



Section 2

brend



throst



stret



spraw



Section 2

label

vanish

blossom

thankful

Reporting to Parents

By the end of the summer term we will report the outcome of the phonics screening check to the parents. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in Year 2.



How Can I Help My Child at Home?

- A phonics book and activities will be sent home over the coming weeks for your child to complete at home.
- Always encourage and praise when reading.
- 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 before blending.
- Continue to read as much as possible to and with your child.