

Phonics Screening Check

The Phonics Screening Check is designed to show how well your child can use the phonics skills they've learned up to the end of Year 1.

The checks consist of **40 words and non-words** that your child will be asked to read one-on-one with a teacher. Non-words (or nonsense words, or pseudo words) are a collection of letters that will follow phonics rules your child has been taught, but don't mean anything – your child will need to read these with the correct sounds to show that they understand the phonics rules behind them.

The 40 words and non-words are divided into two sections – one with simple word structures of three or four letters, and one with more complex word structures of five or six letters. The teacher administering the check with your child will give them a few practice words to read first – including some non-words – so they understand more about what they have to do. Each of the non-words is presented with a picture of a monster / alien, as if the word were their name (and so your child doesn't think the word is a mistake because it doesn't make sense!).

Schools across England will administer the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check the week beginning 12 June 2017.

All children in Year 1 in England must take the Screening Check.

Your child will be scored against a national standard, and the main result will be whether or not they fall below, within or above this standard.

In 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 the "pass threshold" was 32, which means children had to read at least 32 words out of 40 correctly. The threshold mark is communicated to schools at the end of June, after the test has been taken, so that teachers can mark the Check.

You will be told your child's score with the End of Year Report. If your child's score falls below the standard, they will be given extra phonics help and will re-take the Phonics screening check in Year 2.

You can help your child prepare for their Phonics Screening Check by going over the phonics they've learned in Reception and Year 1. Examples of the different sounds are in the centre of your child's Reading Record booklet. You can also use the following link to see how to correctly pronounce each of the 44 sounds:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW_v-1s

You can also help by reading new books and stories with your child where they will be introduced to new words that they'll have to sound out, and review the phonics sounds and rules.

Useful free websites for games, including sounding out real and pseudo words, are included below:

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

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play>