



What is the phonics screening check?

The national phonics screening check was introduced in 2012 to all Year 1 pupils. It is a short, statutory assessment to ensure that children are making sufficient progress in the phonics skills to read words and are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and for learning. All children who do not reach the required level have additional support to ensure that they are given every opportunity to develop their phonic skills and hence their ability to read.

The phonics screening check was not carried out in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

When does the phonics screening check take place?

All Year 1 pupils will take part in the phonics screening check in June 2021. Pupils currently in Year 2 for the academic year 2020-2021 will take part in the phonics screening check in the second half of the Autumn Term.

What happens during the Phonic Screening Check?

The Phonics Screening Check comprises a list of 40 words. Each child will sit one to one and read each word aloud to their Class Teacher. The check is made up of a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words, which the children may refer to as 'alien' words. They will be asked to 'sound out' the word and blend the sounds together to read the word. The words will be presented as a booklet with up to 4 words per page. Pseudo (alien) words will be presented with a colourful picture of an alien. The children will be asked what the alien's name is by reading the pseudo word. This will make the check a bit more fun and provides the children with a context for these non-words. Pseudo words are included because they will be new to all pupils, so there won't be a bias to those with a good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words. Pupils who can read Pseudo words should have the skills to decode almost any unfamiliar word.

Does the Class Teacher carry out the Phonics Screening Check?

Yes, your child's Class Teacher will carry out the check which should take approximately between 5 – 10 minutes.

How will the results from the Phonics Screening Check be used?

The results of the Phonics Screening Check will be analysed by the Class Teacher, in line with ongoing Teacher Assessment to identify gaps in learning and areas for development. Overall results are reported to the local authority and may be discussed during an Ofsted inspection. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in Year 2.

What happens if my child does not meet the required standard during the Phonics Screening Check?

Children will continue to participate in daily systematic phonics teaching lessons and receive one to one reading sessions with their Class Teacher focusing on segmenting and blending for reading. Your child may also take part in an intervention group, called Bounce Back Phonics or Fast Track Phonics.

What can I do if I am feeling concerned or have further questions about the upcoming Phonics Screening Check?

The Phonics Screening Check should not cause anxiety for families or children. If you have any concerns or queries we could help with please contact your child's Class Teacher either directly through SeeSaw or ring the office to make a telephone appointment. If you have further concerns, feel free to contact the English Subject Lead / Key Stage One Leader, Mrs van Zyl. This can be done via the school office.

How can I help my child?

- Let your child see you enjoying reading yourself – they are influenced by you and what you value!
- Immerse your child in a love of reading.
- Visit the library, when safe to do so.
- Make time for your child to read home reading books to you regularly, encourage them by pointing to the words.
- Help your child practise key words and sounds found on the inside cover of their home reading book.
- Encourage your child to access Phonics Bug to practise phonics learning taken place that week in school.
- Communicate with your child's Class Teacher through their Home/School reading record or via SeeSaw.
- Make up nonsense (alien) words for names of toys or things around them.
- Play online phonics games.

Online Games

Phonics Bug: All children should have their own login to access the site.

Phonics Play : <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> (Free games are available on this website)

Letters and Sounds : <https://www.letters-and-sounds.com> (Free games are available on this website)