

Phonics Screening Information



★ 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.

★ When is the phonic 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. If a child is absent during that week, the school can administer the check once the child returns.

★ What happens during the check?
The check contains 40 words. Each child sits one-to-one and sounds out and reads each word aloud to a teacher i.e. **m-oa-t**- 'moat'
The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words).

There are two sections in the check.
Example words from section 1:
can, did, chill, best, books, long, soil, chart. Nonsense words: **tox, bim, vep, dack, melp, heent**

Section 2 often has more words with digraphs, trigraphs and split digraphs.
Example words from section 2:
grand, cloaks, scrap, starling, phone, scribe, snake, midnight, lunchbox, glued.
Nonsense words: **sprop, strow, thrant, whape, yair, glear, sature**

★ How long does the check take?
The check usually takes about 10-15 minutes to complete.

★ Why are there nonsense words in the phonic check?
Nonsense or alien words are included as the check is looking at how your child decodes (uses phonics to sound out and read) new words.

★ How do I know the results of my child's screening check?
The school will inform parents of the results towards the end of the summer term.

★ How can I help my child?
Please continue to read with your child each night and encourage them to:

- Sound out any new words i.e. s-i-ng. Move your finger under the whole word as your child blends and reads it i.e. **s-i-ng**- 'sing'.
- Focus particularly on spotting more unusual sound patterns.
Digraphs- 2 letters making one sound
e.g. c-ow
Trigraphs- 3 letters making one sound
e.g. n-igh- t
Split digraphs- 2 vowels with a consonant in between (used to be known as the magic e) e.g. s-p-i-n-e

- Re-read to check a word or a sentence makes sense.
- Use pictures for reading clues.
- Ask questions about the characters and events in the book.

- Discuss the meaning of new words together.
- Encourage your child to use a phonics sound mat when writing and use the actions they are learning to find the sound they need.

Look also at 2 syllable words such as lunch/box, desk/top, mid/night, twist/ing

- Make a slash between the two syllables (e.g. prob/**lem**) and cover second syllable with a finger.
- Sound-talk the first syllable and blend it: p-r-o-b: prob.
- Sound-talk the second syllable and blend it: **l-e-m:** **lem**
- Say/clap both syllables - prob**lem**

★ Further ideas

- Explore online phonic websites such as:
- <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> (free phonics play- Parents-Interactive Resources for all phases. Buried Treasure and

Picnic on Pluto include nonsense words) Focus on phases 2,3,4 and 5a

- http://www.ictgames.com/blendingBingo_LS.html (Can play as a simple reading game without bingo cards) Your child can pick the sounds to practise.
- <http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/> (Lots of free printable resources with explanations about each phase) Focus on phase 2, 3, 4 and 5
- <http://www.twinkl.co.uk/> Has many printable phonic resources and basic membership is free.
- www.galacticphonics.com/ Click on *long vowels*. There are both games and printable worksheets.
- Play aliens and people. Draw out an alien and a person. Sound out and sort real and nonsense words. How many real words can your child find?

- Treasure hunt: place 10 cards around the room, on the table or even in the garden! Sound out a word. Can your child find the correct word? Encourage them to check by sounding out the word. Have your child be the teacher too.
- BOO! Put 10 word cards into a pot or cup. Add in some pieces of paper with BOO! Written on them. Have fun sounding out the word cards and shouting BOO! each time your child sees it.
- Play find the split digraph. Have children be phonic detectives. How many words can they find with a split digraph? Encourage them to notice the 'e' clue sound at the end of the word. Have them sound out the word to check. They may even like to draw a smile under the split digraph to support with recognition.

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