

# Phonics Screening

A guide for parents.

## Year One Phonics Screening

November 2021

### What is Phonics?



Children are taught to read by breaking down (segmenting) words into separate sounds or 'phonemes'. They are then taught how to blend these sounds together to read the whole word.

Children in Key Stage 1 have a phonics lesson daily and they are encouraged to use these strategies to read and write in other lessons.

## What is the aim of the check?

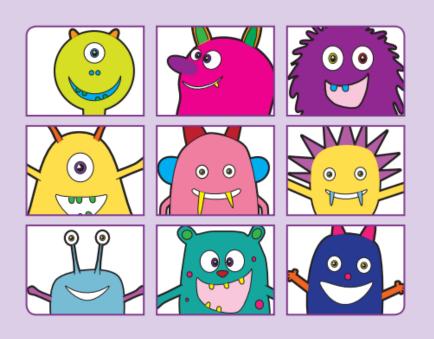
 The Phonics Screening Check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding (i.e. apply their knowledge of lettersound relationships) and blending (i.e. the skill of joining individual speech sounds (phonemes) together to make a word) skills to an appropriate standard

 This 'mid-point' check will allow teachers to ensure that any gaps in children's knowledge is filled by the end of Year 2.

#### Key stage 1

#### Phonics screening check

Pupils' materials



## When will the screening happen?



Every Year 1 Child in the country will be taking the Phonics Screening Check in June

Those Year 1 children who don't pass will be taking the check again in Year 2

The results will be reported to parents as part of the annual school report.

## How is the check completed?

#### 40 word check done in 2 sections

- Assess phonic skills and knowledge learned through Reception and Year 1
- Your child will read up to four words per page for their Teacher and they will probably do the check in one sitting of about 5-10 minutes

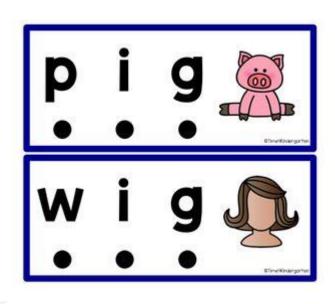
#### Real and Pseudo words

- 20 words are 'real' words
- 20 words are 'pseudo' words
- Pseudo words are included because they will be new to all pupils.

### Example words

Section 2 Section 2 twice var Alien/Pseudo words Real words slirt gloom turn weaf mode

## What do we expect children to do?



- The check is very similar to tasks the children already complete during phonics lessons
- Children will be asked to 'sound out' a word and blend the sounds together, eg d-o-g - dog
- The focus of the check is to see which sounds the children know

THIS IS NOT A READING TEST

## How will the children complete the check?



The children will complete the check one at a time in a quiet area of the school.

The screening will only take 5-10 mins with each child.

### How can you help?

The way in which you learnt to read, is probably very different from the way we teach children to read now, so here is a quick guide to some of the things you can do to help you child in preparation for the Screening Check.

- 1. Remind your child to look for the following when faced with an unfamiliar word (real or alien/pseudo)
  - Look for any familiar digraphs first, then any trigraphs, then any split digraphs. What ever is left are single phonemes.
- 2. Encourage children to use sound buttons when breaking the words down.
  - A dot for a single phoneme, a small line for a digraph/trigraph and a hook for an split digraphs. These should all be placed under the letters in the word. (see next slide for information on sound buttons)
- 3. Play some online game
  - Please see the Phonics section on the school website for links to online games.

### How can you help?

- 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.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each letter, e.g. /c/ in cat, or the letter group, e.g. /ng/ in sing. Next move your finger under the whole word as you say it.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.

#### Vocabulary

- Digraph- 2 letters making one sound = cow
- Trigraphs- 3 letters making one sound = night
- Split digraphs- 2 vowels with a consonant in-between. Used to be known as the magic e!
- spine i\_e

Encourage your child to 'sound out' when reading or writing. Focusing particularly on spotting more unusual sound patterns.

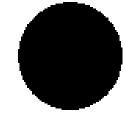
ADD A FOOTER

### Using sound buttons

We use sound buttons to help children recognise the different parts of a word. (single phonemes, digraphs, trigraphs and split digraphs)

#### buttons lines

hooks



single phoneme

digraph or trigraph



### Using sound buttons



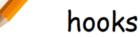
A button tells us that a grapheme (letter) makes an individual sound for example:





A line shows us that more than one grapheme (letter) joins together to make a new sound (digraph or trigraph) for example:





A hook, like a line, shows us that more than one grapheme (letter) joins together to make a new sound BUT those letters are split (split digraph) for example:



#### Useful websites

 Here are some links to helpful website that give more information on the teaching of Phonics:

Phonics Play:

https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/InteractiveResources.htm

Yeu Tube - phoneme pronunciation:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\_continue=18&v=UCI2mu7U RBc&feature=emb\_logo

### Online Phonics Games

Click on the links below to access free phonics games.

Phonics Bloom

Education.com

Top Marks

## How are the results used?

Results from the check will be used by schools to analyse their own performance and Ofsted to use in inspections.

#### Questions

If you have any questions regarding the Phonics Screening Check, please contact the class teacher via email.

### Please Remember

- Phonics is not the only thing needed to become a fluent reader.
  Please continue to read with your child each night and encourage them to:
- Sound out
- Re-read to check it makes sense.
- Use pictures for clues.
- Ask questions about the book.



#### Thank you

#### Thank you for your ongoing support

