

A Guide for Parents...  
Year One  
• • Phonics Screening Check • •



18<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### **What is the Phonics Screening Check?**

The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard. Children in Year 1 will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the week of the 8<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **What happens during the screening?**

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 (nonsense 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 pseudo word 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.

### **Reporting to parents**

By the end of the summer term, we will report each child's results to their parents. This report will also confirm if the child has met the standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in Year 2.

### **How are the results used?**

Results from the check will be used to analyse our school performance and evaluate current provision and support in place for the children. These results will also inform next steps for learning.

### **How Can I Help My Child at Home?**

As always, ensure that you read as much as possible to and with your child. Other ways to support your child with reading are to:

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Encourage and praise – get them to have a 'good go'.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, encourage them to say each sound in the word from left to right. Then blend the sounds by pointing to each one.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.
- Model a love of reading and enjoyment of stories!
- Ask questions about the books they are reading.
- Re-read words and sentences to improve fluency and ensure they understand what they are reading.

The Phonics Screening Check is carried out in a positive way. The children enjoy the 1:1 time with their teachers and this is standard practice in Year 1.

Your child will be coming home with a past paper and a mix of pseudo and real word cards, which they can practise with you.

We will be sending further information and support material prior to the check. Please see your child's class teacher or talk to me, if you have any questions.

Thank you for the continued support with your child's phonics and reading.

Many thanks.

Helen Pull (Phonics Lead)