

Phonics Screening Check



Who?	All children in Year One. Any children in Year Two who scored below 32 in their Year One check in Summer 2022.
When/ where?	The check will take place at school, in a quiet, familiar place. It will take place during the second week of June 2023. This year it can be completed up until the 21st June. They'll be marked absent-if they are not in school within that time to take the test.
What?	<p>The Phonics Screening Check is a statutory reading check, designed to assess if a child has reached the appropriate standard of decoding by the end of Year One. The check contains 40 words- 20 real and 20 pseudo words (known as nonsense or alien words).</p> <p>The words are presented 4 to a page. The words gradually get more difficult- moving from 2 or 3 sound words such as 'vap', 'dem' to longer words and words containing Level 5 sounds 'a_e in cake', "oi in voit'.</p> <p>Pseudo words are shown with a picture of an alien, so the children know that the word may not make sense. This reminds them that they do not need to try and make the sounds into a real word.</p>

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Why?	<p>The Phonics Screening Check (in particular, the pseudo words) show us whether a child can decode unfamiliar words and not just read them from memory.</p> <p>When teaching Phonics, we ultimately aim for children to progress from decoding every word, to automatically reading from sight. However, there may always be some words, that even as adults, we still need to decode if they are unfamiliar. The skill of decoding will help your child to read increasingly more difficult texts and will help to develop their vocabulary.</p>
How?	<p>The Phonics Screening Check is completed on a 1:1 basis with a familiar adult- this may not be the class teacher. Typically, it takes 5 to 10 minutes to complete, but there is no time limit. We can give the children a rest break if necessary. The children will be familiar with the format of the check- the only difference will be, that on this occasion, they will not get any prompts to help.</p>

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<p>What happens after?</p>	<p>Data will be submitted to the Department of Education, where it is used to collate information about the standards in Phonics across the country.</p> <p>You will also be informed of your child's result.</p> <p>In school, we will use these results, along with our own regular assessments, to determine any additional support particular children may need with their reading going forward.</p>
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Phonics Screening Check



Section 1

twig

flick

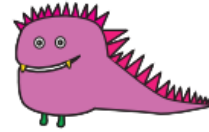
vest

horns
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Section 1

bem



dax



kig



eld



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Things to be mindful of...

- **We must take the first answer a child says.** (We therefore encourage them to sound out then blend every word, so they do not make a quick guess and then correct themselves)
- **Pseudo words can catch children out.** (Sometimes children try to make the pseudo words into a real word e.g. 'kig'- they may quickly read as 'kid').
- **Children may miss the digraphs/ trigraphs (particularly the split ones).** (When practising before the check, we often encourage the children to use sound buttons/bars on a word- they can do this during the check if they wish).

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How can you help your child at home?

Listening to your child read regularly is so important, as it gives them regular opportunities to practise their blending skills. It is equally as valuable for them to listen to you read too! If they hear you read, they are hearing how to pronounce unfamiliar words and you can even model decoding longer words that you'd normally read from sight, just so they can practise alongside you.

When reading with your child, allow them the time to attempt decoding unfamiliar words before stepping in. Help them to identify the digraphs/ trigraphs in words if they can't see them themselves. E.g. if they sound out coin as c-o-i-n, highlight the oi sound to them so they can sound it out as c-oi-n.

Phonics blending games:

Name the alien: Draw an alien. Can they write a name for the alien? Can you write a name for the alien that they can blend to read? You could focus on a particular sound each time you play e.g. ay- your alien could be called Flay, Tay, Smay, Blay.

Beat the Clock: Pick a sound- how many words can they write with that sound? They could be real or pseudo words. E.g. ee- sleep, meep, leem, sheep.

Lucky dip: Have a bag full of words written on post its/ paper. Can they pick a word, sound it out and blend it?

Treasure or trash: Have a special box/ treasure box and a bin. Have a range of words, real and pseudo (you could focus on one sound at a time and then mix these sounds when your child becomes more confident). Can they sort the words into treasure (real words) and trash (pseudo words)?

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Interactive Games:

These games focus on Phases 2-5, instead of the Levels 2-5 like Twinkl Phonics. The children will still be able to play these games, but the sounds may appear in a different order than what they are used to.

Odd and Bob Phase 5: <https://www.phonicsbloom.com/uk/game/odd-and-bob?phase=5>

Odd and Bob Phase 4: <https://www.phonicsbloom.com/uk/game/odd-and-bob?phase=4>

Picnic on Pluto Phase 2-5: <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/2/picnic-on-pluto>

Buried Treasure Phase 2-5: <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/2/buried-treasure>

Picnic on Pluto Phase 2-5: <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/2/picnic-on-pluto>

Twinkl Go:

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/go> These games, PowerPoints and activities are linked explicitly to the Twinkl Phonics levels that the children are working through. The Twinkl Go code you will need is: **AF8946**.