

Phonic Screening Check



What is the Phonics 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. Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when in Year 1 or if they have not taken the test before.

The headteacher should decide whether it is appropriate for each of their pupils to take the phonics screening check. The check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt sufficient phonic decoding and blending skills.

What happens during the check?

The check contains 40 words. Each child sits one to one and reads each word aloud to the teacher. The check 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 is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense/alien words).

Pseudo/nonsense/alien words.

These 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. The 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.

Results will be reported to parents in your child's end of year report. They will also confirm if the child has met the standard threshold, previously this has been around 32. Schools will not be told of the threshold until after the check has been completed. Children who do not meet the threshold will re-take the check when they are in Year 2.

How the results are used.

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

How can I help my child at home?

- Encourage your child and give them lots of praise.
- Read to them as well as listening to them read.
- If they are stuck on a word remind them to look for 'special friends, fred talk, read the word'.