# Year 1 Phonics screening check



# What is the phonics screening check?

The phonics screening check is taken by all Year 1 children in England.

It is not a formal test but a way for teachers to ensure that children are making sufficient progress with their phonics skills.



It will help to identify whether your child needs additional support at this stage so that they do not fall behind with early reading skills.

### When is the phonics screening check?

The phonics screening check will take place during the week 8<sup>th</sup> June.

It only takes around 5 minutes.

### What is in the phonics screening check?

There are 2 sections in the 40 word check.

It assesses phonics skills and knowledge learnt through Reception and Year 1.

The children will read 4 words per page.

There is a practise sheet to make sure the children understand the style of the check before they begin.

The children will do the check individually with their class teacher.

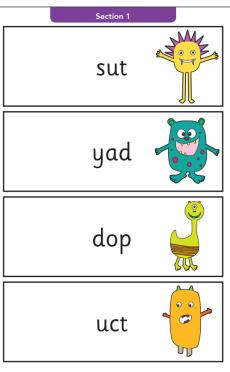
It is not a stressful situation for the children and they will have done lots of practise beforehand.



### What the check looks like

Here is an example of what the check looks like.





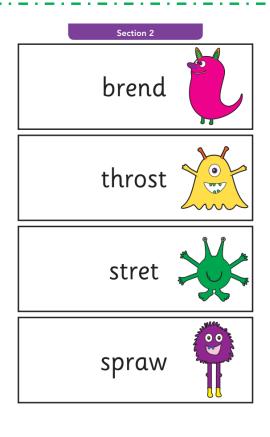


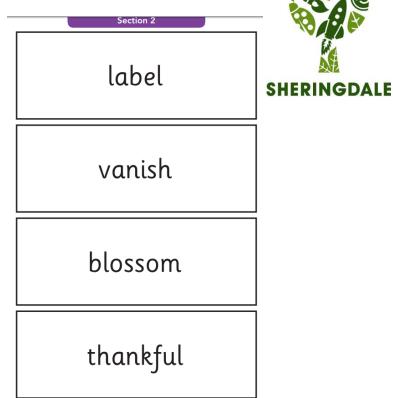


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### What does it check?

## ! The phonics check is designed to check your ! child can:

- Sound out and blend in order to read words.
- Read phonetically decodable one and two syllable words.
- Read a selection of nonsense words which are referred to as 'alien words'.



### What are alien words and why are they included?

The alien words in the check are all phonetically decodable but they are not real words.

Alien words are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode words using their phonics knowledge and not their memory.

The alien words will be shown in the check with a picture of an alien next to the word so the children know that these are not real words. This indicates to the children they needs to sound out and blend using their phonics knowledge.

Children generally enjoy reading these words and looking at the different aliens!







# How will your child be scored?

The check is not about passing or failing it is about checking appropriate progress has been made.

The children get 1 mark for each word they read correctly.

The pass mark is not realised until a couple of weeks after the check but it is usually around 32/40.

If your child does not meet the required score we will ensure sufficient additional support is in place for them.

Children progress at different speeds - If your child does not meet the threshold mark it does not necessarily mean there is a serious problem! Your child will re-sit the check in the summer term of Year 2.



## How will you be informed?

Once all of the children have completed the check the pass mark will be released.

You will then be sent home a letter with your child's phonics score in and this will inform you if your child has passed or not.

If your child has not passed the check we will arrange a meeting with you to discuss how to support your child.



## How can you help your child at home?

We will be sending practise checks home towards the time of the check. Please get your child to practise the check at home.

We will send home sound mats for all Phase 3 and Phase 5 sounds. You could use these to make flash cards for each sound or to play phonics games with.

If your child needs extra support we will send some extra materials home for you to practise with.

The most important thing is to not put any pressure on the children. We want the children to practise and do well but we do not want it to become a stress or burden at home. Please just do as much as what suits your child best.

Make it fun!



### Useful Websites

There are plenty of phonics games on google and most of these are free!

Here are some good ones:



#### **Phonics Play**

We often use this game at school where the children have to read the words and feed Obb the alien words and Bob the real words.

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

#### **Phonics Bloom**

There are similar phonics games on this website.

https://www.phonicsbloom.com/uk/game/list/phonics-games-phase-5

# Any Questions?



Please ask us any questions you have!

If it is a specific question about how to help *your* child ! then please ask us at parents evening.