Phonics Screening Check

May 2024





Phonics is an established way of teaching children to read quickly and skillfully.

Starting from early years children were taught how to:

- distinguish sounds in words
- recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes
- identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make, such as 'sh' or 'oo'
- blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can use this knowledge to 'decode' new words that they hear or see.

Phonics Screening Check

The Phonics Screening Check takes place in year 1, in June. Children throughout the country all take the test at a similar time, from Monday 10th June.

The Phonics Screening Check is designed to allow schools to assess whether children have made expected progress within their phonics learning and have reached an appropriate standard.

It can help teachers to identify gaps in children's phonics knowledge.

Year 1 pupils who meet the expected standard in phonics in the check will not be required to complete any further statutory assessments in phonics.

Year 1 pupils who do not meet the expected standard in the check will take the statutory check in June 2025, alongside year 1 pupils.

This check will identify any children that need any additional support which they will receive promptly. They will continue to be supported throughout their time in Year 2. (We will communicate with you about this!)



Pupils in the same cohort may take the check on different days. Over a period of a week.

If a pupil is absent when the rest of the cohort takes the check, schools can administer the check to the pupil when they return.

Any pupil who is absent from school for this entire period will be recorded as absent in the results data. This pupil would then be eligible to take the statutory check in June 2024.

What does a phonics screening check look like?

The checks consists of **40 words.**

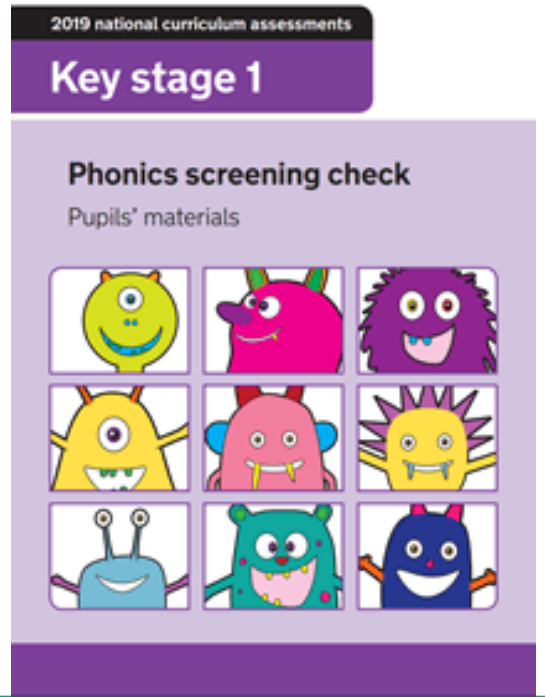
These words are a combination of **real words** and **'alien' words.**





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- Alien words are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning e.g. brip, snorb. These words are included in the check to assess whether your child can decode a word using phonics skills and not their memory.

- Children generally find nonsense amusing and enjoy reading these words.

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How?

- Informal test all the children have seen many times before!
- Reading words in a way that they have done lots of times.
- In a 1:1 quiet environment with a member of staff they know really well.
- 40 words all at once? Some children may benefit from reading some words and then coming back to the rest. What do we do about this?

Pass mark

- Children progress at different speeds so not reaching the threshold score does not necessarily mean there is a serious problem! Your child will re-sit the check the following summer term.
- *For the last few years, the threshold mark (or pass standard) set by the government has been* ***32 correct answers out of 40.***
- The school will report your child's results to you (by the end of the term) as well as to the local authority, but the results won't be published in a league table. If you have any concerns, do talk to us!

What can I do to help?

Try and identify any specific sounds that your child isn't secure in by:

- **Continuing to read everyday.**
- **Have a go at a past phonics screening check.**
- **Use the phonics mats. Use these to write words for your child to read.**
- **Phonics resources online such as phonics play!**

Visit the Phonics made easy page for further hints, tips and videos to help you learn more about phonics and how you can help your child:

https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/learn-to-read-phonics/



- Any questions?
- Please contact us if you require any further support or have any questions or concerns☺

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