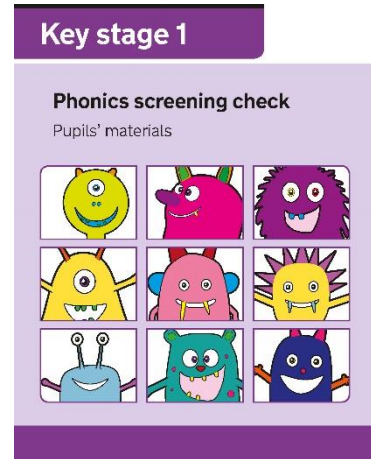


Year 1 Phonics: Important Information for Parents

Starting this week, our phonics homework will look a bit different. We will send home a set of real and 'alien' words for your child to practice reading each week. This will help build their confidence in preparation for the National Phonics Screening, which takes place in the Summer term of Year 1.

What is the National Phonics Screening?

The Phonics Screening Check is a nationwide assessment that occurs in Year 1, typically in June. All children in England take the test during the same week. This check is designed to assess whether children have made the expected progress in their phonics learning and whether they've reached the appropriate standard. It helps teachers identify any gaps in children's phonics knowledge and provides a clear picture of where they may need extra support or where they are excelling.



How is it Carried Out?

Each child will work with their class teacher in a familiar, quiet space to read a set of 40 words from the screening booklet. The words are a mix of real words and 'alien' (or 'nonsense') words. These non-words are important because they test children's decoding skills—words they haven't learned by sight.

We regularly practice both real and alien words during our phonics lessons, so your child will already be familiar with how these non-words are represented.

Reporting to Parents

After the national screening, the government will share the score required to meet the expected standard. We will then inform you about how your child has performed and whether they met the standard in their end-of-year report. If a child does not pass the Phonics Screening Check in Year 1, they will retake the test in Year 2, and phonics teaching and support will continue throughout Year 2.

Supporting Your Child at Home

As parents, you play a vital role in nurturing a love of books and a joy for reading. Here are some tips to support your child:

- Play listening games with your child at home to develop their phonemic awareness.
- Read with your child as often as possible. Encourage them to read to you, and read aloud to them as well.
- When your child encounters an unfamiliar word, give them time to decode it using the strategies they've learned in school. If they struggle, guide them by pointing out the individual sounds (not letters) in the word. For example, for the word 'sheep,' you can say "sh-ee-p" before blending the sounds together to say the word.
- When reading to your child, model how to approach unfamiliar words and discuss their meanings. It's also important to pronounce words correctly.
- Use lots of praise and make reading time enjoyable.
- Play word games like 'I Spy' or 'Hangman' to make learning fun.
- Help your child identify and blend the different sounds in words. For example, in 'cat,' say "c-a-t," then blend the sounds to read the word aloud.
- Discuss the meanings of words as you read together.

Learn More

This video provides additional information about the National Phonics Screening: [What is the Phonics Screening Check | A Guide for Parents](#)



Important Date

The Phonics Screening Check will take place during
the week of June 9th 2025.

Please ensure your child is in school that week for the test.

Thank you for your continued support in helping
your child succeed with phonics!