



Wednesday 5th February 2025

National Phonics Screening Test

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you about the National Phonics Screening Test which will take place in Year 1 during the week beginning 9th June, 2025. This letter will explain the process and provide you with ideas to help your child with phonics at home.

What is the phonics screening check?

As you may already know, the government introduced an annual phonics screening check. This informs our continual assessment of the children's phonic knowledge and the results of the check will be shared with parents / carers in the end of year report. It consists of a list of 40 words that children read one-to-one with a teacher. The list is a combination of both real and made up 'nonsense' words, which rely purely on using phonics to decode. We do not place any pressure on the children around this and they will be unaware that it is a test. Children complete informal checks regularly in order for us to assess how they are progressing in phonics and the official test will take the same format as these checks.

Who takes the test?

All children in Year 1. In addition, any child in Year 2 who did not reach the required level when they took the test in Year 1 will take the test again. If for any reason, we feel that there is a valid reason why your child should not take the test in Year 1, we will discuss this with you nearer the time. Please note, this is only done in exceptional circumstances and your child would still be eligible to take the retake when they are in Year 2.

What are nonsense words?

Your child will be told during the check which words are nonsense words. Your child will be familiar with these because we use 'nonsense' words when teaching phonics in school. Children cannot sight read nonsense words, they have to use their decoding skills. This approach is used to assess children's ability to decode.

After the Phonics Screening

We will inform you of how your child has performed in the screening check in their end of year report.

Helping your child with phonics

Phonics works best when children are given plenty of encouragement and learn to enjoy reading and books. Parents can play a very important part in supporting with this.

Below are some simple steps to help your child learn to read, using phonics:

Step 1

Identify 'special friends.' These are sounds which consist of 2 or 3 letters to make a particular sound, e.g. 'sh', 'igh', 'ou' etc. (children are allowed to underline the sounds).

Step 2

Fred talk the sounds (say each sound separately).



Step 3

Read the word (blend sounds together)

Other strategies:

- Use the speed sounds chart. Point to a sound and ask your child to say the sound.
- Choose 4 sounds a week to display at home that your child is unfamiliar with. Use the sound phrases first to identify the sound and then move to just saying the correct sound.
- Read a mixture of real and nonsense words. An example of a phonics screening check test is below.
- With all books, encourage your child to sound out / Fred talk unfamiliar words and then blend the sounds together from left to right, rather than looking at the pictures to guess. Once your child has read an unfamiliar word you can talk about what it means and help them to follow the story.
- Make time to read with your child every day. Grandparents and older brother or sisters can help, too. Encourage your child to blend the sounds all the way through a word. Don't forget to log the reading on Boom Reader.
- Word games like 'I-spy' can also be an enjoyable way of teaching children about sounds and letters. You can also encourage your child to read words from your shopping list or road signs to consolidate their knowledge.

As a school we have purchased some new resources in order to support you with phonics at home. Over the coming weeks, you will be directed to some online learning videos for you to access with your child at home. These include interactive games, as well as sound and word reading lesson videos. Please share these with your child - they are a fun and exciting way to recap their phonics knowledge, that will aid them in their journey of reading. The online materials directly align to the phonics that children learn in school.

If you have any questions about phonics or reading, please do not hesitate to contact myself or your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Perrin
Assistant Headteacher



Complex Speed Sounds

Consonant sounds

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
ff	ll	mm	nn	rr	ss	ve	zz	ti		nk
ph	le	mb	kn	wr	se		s	ci		
					c		se			
					ce					

b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
bb	k	dd	gg		g	pp		tt	wh			tch
	ck				ge							
	ch				dge							

Vowel sounds

a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow
	ea				<u>a-e</u>	y	<u>i-e</u>	<u>o-e</u>
					ai	ea	ie	oa
						e	i	o
							y	

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy	ire	ear	ure
<u>u-e</u>			oor	are	ur	ow	oi			
ue			ore		er					
ew			aw							
			au							



Phrases to help remember the sounds

ay: <u>may</u> I <u>play</u>
ee: what can you <u>see</u>
igh: fly <u>high</u>
ow: <u>blow</u> the <u>snow</u>
oo: <u>poo</u> at the <u>zoo</u>
oo: <u>look</u> at a <u>book</u>
ar: <u>start</u> the <u>car</u>
or: shut the <u>door</u>
air: that's not <u>fair</u>
ir: <u>whirl</u> and <u>twirl</u>
ou: <u>shout</u> it <u>out</u>
oy: toy for a <u>boy</u>

ea: cup of <u>tea</u>
oi: <u>spoil</u> the <u>boy</u>
a-e: make a <u>cake</u>
i-e: nice <u>smile</u>
o-e: <u>phone</u> <u>home</u>
u-e: <u>huge</u> <u>brute</u>
aw: <u>yawn</u> at <u>dawn</u>
are: <u>share</u> and <u>care</u>
ur: <u>purse</u> for a <u>nurse</u>
er: a <u>better</u> <u>letter</u>
ow: <u>brown</u> <u>cow</u>
ai: <u>snail</u> in the <u>rain</u>
oa: <u>goat</u> in a <u>boat</u>
ew: <u>chew</u> the <u>stew</u>
ire: <u>fire</u> <u>fire!</u>
ear: <u>hear</u> with your <u>ear</u>
ure: <u>sure</u> it's <u>pure?</u>

Ruth Miskin (the founder of Read, Write, Inc.) has a very useful website that includes useful video clips and information about Read, Write, Inc. You can also purchase RWI resources to use at home with your child. [Parents and Carers - Ruth Miskin Literacy](#)

Amazon also sell these.

Examples of phonics screening check assessment. Please note these are the answer sheet for the teacher administering the test. This is not the sheet children will read from.

Section 1				Section 2			
Word	Correct	Incorrect	Comment	Word	Correct	Incorrect	Comment
dat				tay			
cag				sloam			
rin				zued			
ept				meve			
jash				clend			
quib				braits			
coid				scrug			
quass				splue			
glog				high			
blard				feast			
disp				goal			
murbs				shape			
chum				trunk			
kick				groups			
reef				straw			
short				scribe			
blot				model			
greet				person			
dust				chapter			
parks				reptiles			