

Year 1 Phonics Screening

What is phonic screening check?

The phonics screening check is taken individually by all children in Year 1 in England, and will be taken **WB Monday 12th June 2023**. It is designed to give teachers and parents information on how your child is progressing in phonics. The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.

What is in the phonics screening check?

There are two sections in this 40-word check and it assesses phonics skills and knowledge learned through Reception and Year 1. Your child will read up to four words per page for their teacher and they will do the check in one sitting of about 5–10 minutes.

The Check consists of 40 words and non-words that your child will be asked to read one-on-one with a teacher. Non-words (or nonsense words, or pseudo words) are a collection of letters that follow phonics rules your child has been taught, but don't mean anything – your child will need to read these with the correct sounds to show they understand the phonics rules behind them. | The 40 words and non-words are divided into two sections – one with simple word structures of three or four letters, and one with more complex word structures of five or six letters. - The teacher who is administering the Check with your child will give them a few practice words to read first – including some non-words – so they understand what they have to do. - Each of the non-words is presented with a picture of a monster / alien, as if the word were their name (and so your child doesn't think the word is a mistake because it doesn't make sense!).

What do the Screening Check scores mean?

Your child will be scored against a national standard, and the main result will be whether or not they fall below, within or above this standard. Since 2013 the “pass threshold” has been 32, which means children had to read at least 32 words out of 40 correctly. You will be told how your child did, but schools' results will not be published. If your child's score is below the standard, they will be given extra phonics help and can re-take the Check in Year 2.