

A Guide for Parents...

Year Two

Phonics Screening Check

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

Children in Year 2 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the second half of the Autumn Term. Children are taking it in Year 2 this year due to the disruption caused by school closures in the Summer Term last academic year.

Head teachers should decide whether it is appropriate for each of their pupils to take the phonics screening check. The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt sufficient phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.

What Happens During the Test?

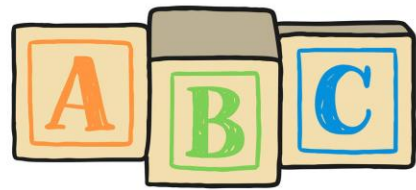
The test contains 40 words. Each child will sit one to one and read each word aloud to their teacher. The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child, although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace. The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words).

Pseudo Words (Nonsense words)

The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This provides the children with a context for the pseudo word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have. Pseudo words are included because they will be new to all pupils; they do not favour children with a good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words.

Reporting to Parents

By the end of the autumn term we will report each child's results to you, their parents. We will also confirm if your child has met the standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test in the Summer Term when the Year 1 children take their test.



How Are The Results Used?

Results from the check will be used by schools to analyse their own performance.

“Read as much as possible to and with your child.”

How Can I Help My Child At Home?

- Have a go at the practice paper we have provided.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise – get them to have a ‘good guess’.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each letter, e.g. /c/ in cat, or the letter group, e.g. /ng in sing. Next move your finger under the whole word as you say it.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.