# Parents' Briefing The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

May 2025



### What are phonics?

Children are taught to read by breaking down words into separate sounds or 'phonemes'. They are then taught how to blend these sounds together to read the whole word.

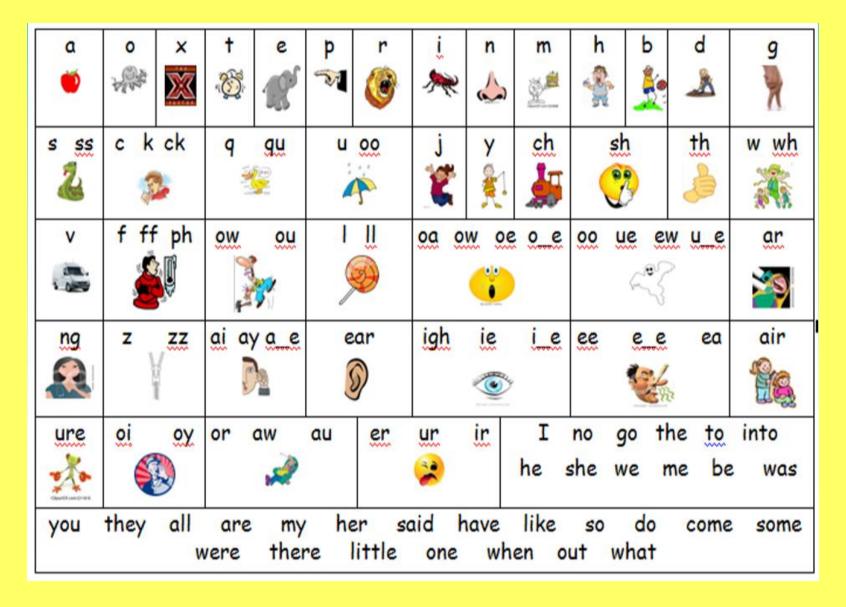
•Children have a discrete 20/30 minutes phonics lesson every day at school and a 20-minute guided reading lesson every day.

•They are encouraged to use the strategies taught in other

lessons.



### There are over 40 sounds



# Why are the children being screened?

- Every Year 1 child in the country normally takes the phonics screening check in the same 2 week window in June.
- •The aim of the check is to ensure that all children are able to read by the end of Year 2.



# Why are the children being screened?

- If children don't pass the screening check, it will enable us to give them more support and they will take the screening check again in June 2026.
- We have to report your child's results to you before the end of the Summer Term.
- •We have to tell the Local Authority the results for our school.

### What do the children have to do?

- •The check is very similar to tasks the children have already completed in Year 1.
- •Children will be asked to 'sound out' a word and blend the sounds together e.g. d-o-g – dog.
- •The focus of the check is to see which sounds the children know.
- •The children will also be asked to read made up 'nonsense' words so that children who have a good sight vocabulary can be fairly assessed.

## Examples of words:

in

at

beg

sum

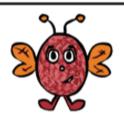
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#### The Phonics Check

- The phonics screening check is not a READING test. It is a DECODING test. It is designed to confirm whether pupils have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. It will identify pupils who need extra help to improve their decoding skills.
- The check consists of 20 real words and 20 pseudo-words that a pupil reads aloud to the teacher.

  Examples of words

day

slide

newt

phone

snemp

blurst

It takes about 5-10 minutes

KEY STAGE

#### Phonics

#### Screening check: Answer sheet

First name	
Last name	

Screening check responses: Please tick the appropriate box for each word. The use of the comment box is optional.

Section 1				
Word	Correct	Incorrect	Comment	
tox				
bim				
vap				
ulf				
geck				
chom				
tord				
thazz				
blan				
steck				
hild				
quemp				
shin				
gang				
week				
chill				
grit				
start				
best				
hooks				

Section 2				
Word	Correct	Incorrect	Comment	
voo				
jound				
terg				
fape				
snemp				
blurst				
spron				
stroft				
day				
slide				
newt				
phone				
blank				
trains				
strap				
scribe				
rusty				
finger				
dentist				
starling				

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### Who will complete the check?

- •The children will complete the check one at a time in a quiet area of the school.
- Mrs Glynn and Miss Hickman will conduct all of the screening checks with the children in Year 1.
- The screening will only take 5-10mins with each child.
- Children have to take the test in the test week



### Any questions?

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phonicsscreening-check-sample-materials-and-training-video

Carried out in the 2 weeks commencing 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025
Don't tell your child!
Keep it low key!