

Parents' Briefing The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

May 2026














































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

a 	o 	x 	t 	e 	p 	r 	i 	n 	m 	h 	b 	d 	g 
s ss 	c k ck 	q qu 	u oo 	j 	y 	ch 	sh 	th 	w wh 				
v 	f ff ph 	ow ou 	l ll 	oa ow oe o e 	oo ue ew u e 	ar 							
ng 	z zz 	ai ay a e 	ear 	igh 	ie i e 	ee e e ea 	air 						
ure 	oi oy 	or aw au 	er ur ir 	I no go the to into he she we me be was									
you they all are my her said have like so do come some were there little one when out what													

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?

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.



Why?

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

ot



vap



osk



ect



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.
- It takes about 5-10 minutes

Examples of words

day

snemp



slide

blurst



newt

spron



phone

stroft



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			

Total correct	
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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/phonics-screening-check-sample-materials-and-training-video>

Carried out in the 2 weeks
commencing 8th June 2026

Don't tell your child!

Keep it low key!