

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Information

27/03/26

What is the Phonics Screening?

- The check is a Government statutory screening that takes place in the Summer term of Year 1
- Schools are required to carry out the check with all pupils who are currently in Year 1 and those pupils in Year 2 who did not pass the year prior
- The check assesses the children's knowledge of a range of phonemes and their ability to blend them into words

When is the Phonics Screening?

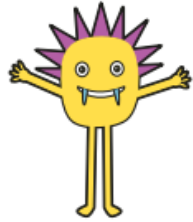
- The check is carried out by a known adult (usually the class teacher or a member of senior leadership, at Frieth Mrs Shallish will be responsible)
- All children sit the check unless they have been disapplied due to significant additional needs or circumstances
- The check this year takes place between Monday 8th and Friday 12th June
- Your child may take the check at any time on any of these days
- We are unable to share their score with you until a later date

What happens in the Phonics Screening?

- The child sits with Mrs Shallish in a quiet place outside of the classroom
- The child is expected to read 40 words, 20 of which are 'alien' or 'nonsense' words such as 'blek' or 'steap'
- Children can use a pencil to draw sound buttons on the words, can say the sounds out loud and then blend, or can read the word outright if confident
- We always encourage the children to sound out aloud as this is effective in reducing errors made by children guessing
- We must take the child's final reading as the answer we record, even if they previously said it correctly

Section 1

dup



hib



gox



ags



The check starts with 12 alien words then 8 real words.

Section 1 contains sounds taught in Reception that we have continued to practise in Year 1.

Section 1

quiz

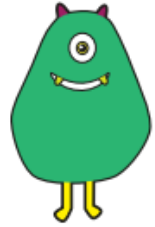
sell

form

shark

Section 2

sleft



thresk



spleg



strume



The check moves on to 8 alien words then 12 real words.

Section 2 contains both Phase 3 Reception sounds and the newer Phase 5 sounds taught in Year 1.

Section 2

pie

found

boom

shake

Additional Information

- The check is out of 40 and you will most likely find out their score with their report
- The pass mark has always previously been 32/40, we are always told this may change
- Scores are not shared with the children, and we talk about the check in a way that makes it seem fun, exciting and a nice opportunity to share their reading skills with Mrs Shallish
- Any pupils who do not pass the check will resit it in June of Year 2

What can you do to help?

- Phonics Check past papers (these could be printed/copied out onto paper and used for practise/games around the house)

www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-past-test-materials

- Encourage children to always sound out words to decode them
- Ask children to be the teacher – can they write some words for you to sound out (maybe with you reading with a few intentional mistakes!) and show you how to decode
- Using games on phonicsplay.co.uk where the children can sort real and alien words
- Encourage children to write sound buttons on words they are trying to read – we dot single letter sounds, underline digraphs and trigraphs (2 and 3 letter sounds) and draw a curved line under split digraphs (sounds with a linking 'e' after a consonant)

make
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ship

book

night

ring

wait

fair