

# Phonics Screening Check 2018

A guide for Year 1 parents

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# What is Phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skillfully. They are taught how to:

recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes;

identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make - such as 'sh' or 'oo'; and blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can then use this knowledge to 'de-code' new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.

# Phonics Screening

The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check is a national statutory check of your child's ability to read words using phonics. Most children will complete the check unless the headteacher decides that a child should not take part because they have not shown any understanding of grapheme-phoneme correspondences so far. Parents will be advised if this is the case.

**The phonics screening check can be taken at any time during the week commencing Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2018.** If a child is absent during that week, they may take the check any time until Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. If a child does not take the check during this period and returns to school after 22<sup>nd</sup> June, they should be marked as absent. Children must only attempt the phonics screening check once during the check window.

# Why do we screen phonics?

Almost all children who receive good teaching of phonics will learn the skills they need to tackle new words. They can then go on to read any kind of text fluently and confidently, and to read for enjoyment.

The phonics screening check 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.

Children who have been taught phonics also tend to read more accurately than those taught using other methods, such as 'look and say'. This includes children who find learning to read difficult, for example those who have dyslexia.

# What is the phonics screening check like?

Your child will sit with a teacher he or she knows and be asked to read 40 words aloud.

Your child may have read some of the words before, while others will be completely new.

The check normally takes just a few minutes to complete and there is no time limit. If your child is struggling, the teacher will stop the check. The check is carefully designed not to be stressful for your child.

# What sounds does the phonics screening check contain?

## **Section 1**

The words in section 1 will have a variety of simple word structures (for example CVC, VCC, CCVC and CVCC) using: single letters (a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q(u), r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z)

some consonant digraphs (ch, ck, ff, ll, ng, sh, ss, th, zz)

frequent and consistent vowel digraphs (ar, ee, oi, oo, or)

# What sounds does the phonics screening check contain?

## **Section 2**

The words in section 2 will have a variety of more complex word structures (for example CCVCC, CCCVC, CCCVCC and two syllable words) with some:

additional consonant digraphs (ph, wh)

less frequent and consistent vowel digraphs, including split digraphs (a-e, ai, au, aw, ay, ea, e-e, er, ew, i-e, ie, ir, oa, o-e, ou, ow, oy, ue, u-e, ur)

trigraphs (air, igh).

# Real words and non-words

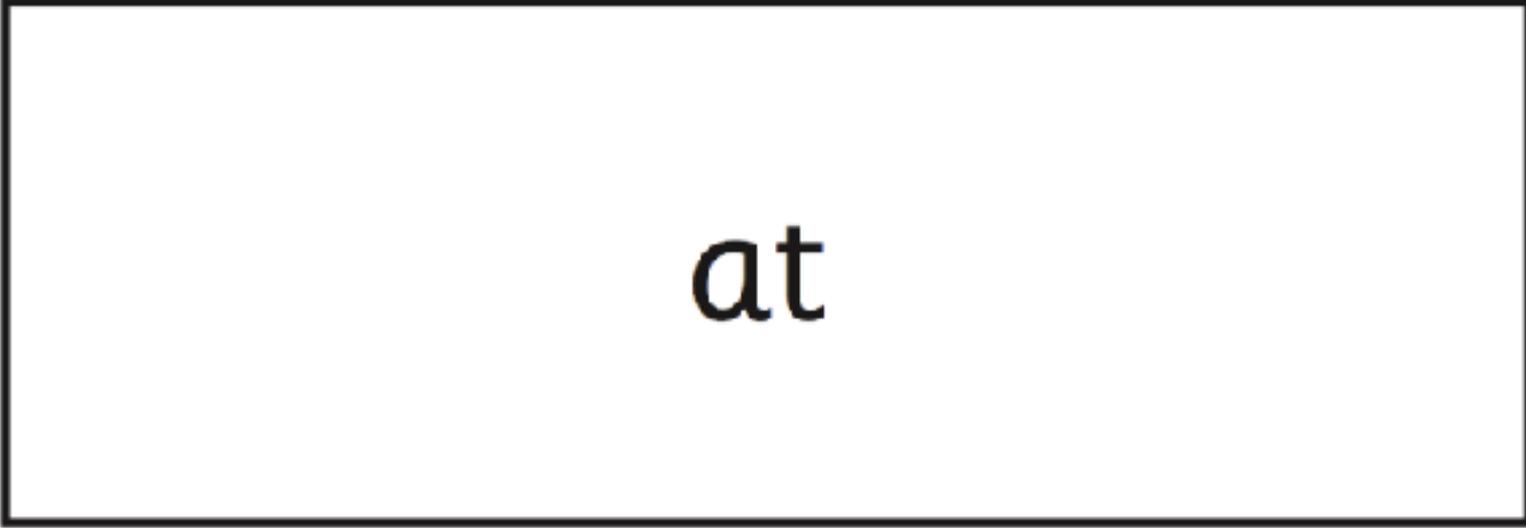
In addition to a range of real words, the Phonics Screening Check includes a number of non-words. Non-words are words that are not real. To allow the child to identify the word as a non-real word it is presented with a picture of an alien and the child is encouraged to sound out the strange alien name as shown on the flashcard.

Non-words are included to check that the child is using phonics and not just using sight vocabulary to read the words.

Some children can try to make a real word and this is why we frequently practice reading non-words so that the children become used to the silly game.

# Real word cards

This is an example the way that the real words are presented.



at

The children are exposed to this font and it is clear for the children to see.

# Non-word cards

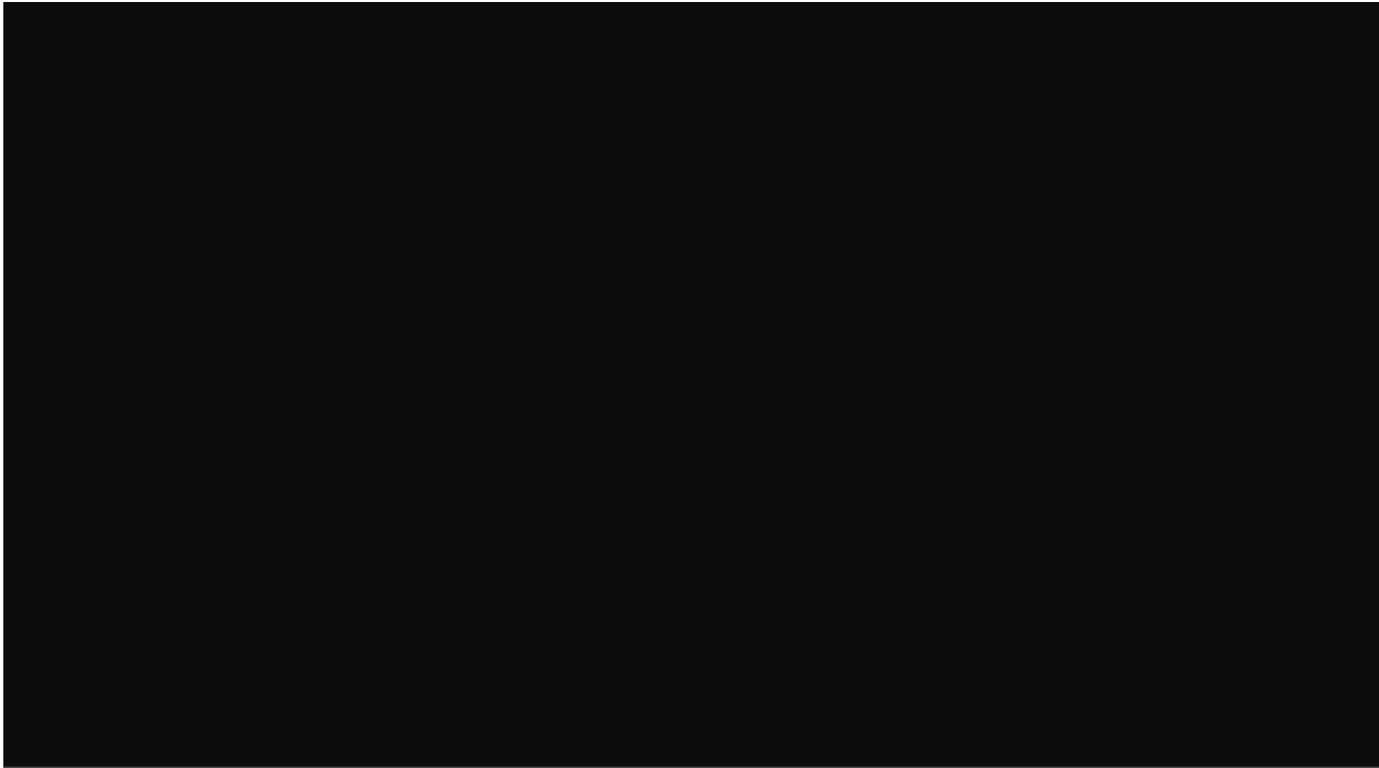
This is an example the way that the non-words are presented.



We can copy the flashcards onto coloured paper to help dyslexic children.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPJ\\_ZEBh1Bk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPJ_ZEBh1Bk)

# Phonics Screening Test Example video



# Phonics Screening Preparation

Your child has been given a phonics pack to practice at home. These packs are individually tailored to the sounds that they found difficult during our practice check last term. Please continue to use these activities daily for a few minutes each night to ensure that your child achieved their full potential in phonics this year.

More resources and useful websites can be found by using the school website on the English Support page: <http://ravensmead.staffs.sch.uk/pupil-pages/english-support/>

Flashcards are extremely useful, as is phonics play in the free section. <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/index.htm>

- Finding pairs of friends / sound buttons
- Writing specific sounds and sticking them on your fridge

# No more weekly spellings!

After February half term, we will no longer be sending weekly spellings home.

- Instead we will be sending a phonics screening practice paper home.
- This will also be checked in school and your child will be rewarded if they have practiced at home.
- An example of this is included in your child's pack.

Pupil's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section 1**

bep	yeg	geb	ruzz
marb	thush	threep	ust
leroll	frell	nuik	chuck
ship	tuck	bon	quill
skid	flash	mix	shift

**Section 2**

keed	quve	zor	righ
chud	shrend	struz	spruze
tsur	thre	drawe	tow
blimp	crawls	scrap	otrije
nulon	harnet	sadness	kindness

**blimp****crawls****scrap****bep****yeg****geb****ruzz**

This will consist of a list of the 40 words on the front and then the words set out on separate sheets, with or without the alien pictures. You can tick them if you like and we will be checking them in school.

# Make it fun!!

## Games to play at home.

1. Hunt the Sound : hide different sounds around the room – how quick can your child find the grapheme (letters) when you shout out the phoneme (sound)
2. Alphablocks: This is a really fun program for your child to watch and learn. There is also a really good parent guide to phonics and how the program progresses, you can follow this link: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/the-alphablocks-guide-to-phonics> you can also find a specific sound on youtube
3. Memory games – write sounds on flashcards in pairs. Take it in turns to turn them over and find the matching pair.

# Phonics Screening Reporting

Headteachers must report each child's phonics screening check score to parents by the end of the summer term.

Headteachers should also report whether or not a child has met the standard.

If your child fails to achieve the standard to pass the phonics screening check they will continue to receive support in phonics and will retake the check after 12 months in Year 2.

# Questions

Please feel free to talk to us about the phonics screening check and ask any questions that you may have.