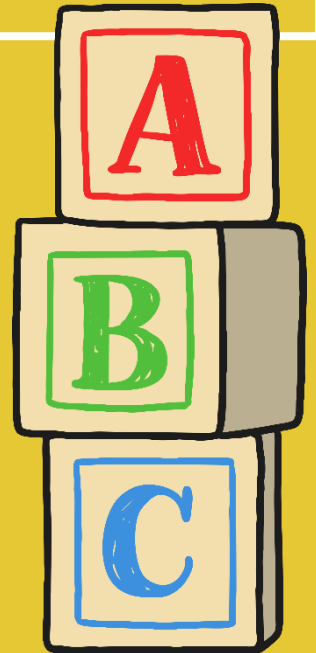


Year One

Phonics Screening Check

A Guide for Parents



What is Phonics?

Children begin to learn phonics (sounds) in Early years both in Nursery and Reception.

Once children begin learning sounds, these sounds are used orally to identify and make words. They will then begin to learn the letters which make each of the sounds and these are used to read and spell words.



What are pure sounds?

Children learn 'pure' sounds during our Phonics lessons. A video is available for you to hear the pure sounds and practise them at home.

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/resources/sound-pronunciation-guide/>



Pure sounds.mp4



What happens in Phonics lessons?

Children are streamed for Phonics and it takes place for 20 minutes every day.

These lessons are ultimately providing the children with sufficient skills to be able to read and spell. They are also preparing the children for the Screening Check.

Part of a model lesson...



What is the Phonics Screening Check?

Children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the same week in June. Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when in Year 1 or they have not taken the test before.

The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt 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 a 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).



Example Of The Check

Practice sheet: Real Words

beg

twinkl.co.uk

at

twinkl.co.uk

sum

twinkl.co.uk

in

twinkl.co.uk



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.



Example Of The Check

Practice sheet: Pseudo Words

vap



twinkl.co.uk

osk



twinkl.co.uk

ot



twinkl.co.uk

ect



twinkl.co.uk



twinkl.co.uk

Reporting to Parents

By the end of the summer term all schools must report each child's results to their parents. They will also confirm if the child has met the standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in Year 2.



How Are the Results Used?

Results from the check will be used by schools to analyse their own performance and for Ofsted to use in inspections.



How Can I Help My Child at Home?

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- 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.
- Say the sounds by pointing to each one, e.g. /c/ /a/ /t/ in cat. 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.

