

Phonics Screening Check in Year 1



what	they
do	said
you	to
the	what

s	s	a	a	t	t	p	p
i	i	n	n	m	m	d	d
g	g	o	o	c	c	k	k
e	e	u	u	r	r	h	h
b	b	f	f	l	l		

Phonic Screening Check 2026

- All Year 1 children should take the check;
- Check administered in the week beginning 8th June. Please don't book holidays during this week. The check can be carried out the following week if your child is unwell.
- Pupils' Phonic Screening Check scores will be reported to parents and carers.

Phonic Screening Check 2026

How does the check work?

Your child will go to a quiet room where they will sit with their class teacher. They will be asked to read 40 words aloud. This will be presented as a reading quiz and not talked about as a test. We will do everything we can to ensure that the children feel comfortable with the task. We will give them a short break, if necessary, after the first 20 words.

- The check normally takes around 10-15 minutes with each child but 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.

- As the phonics screening test must be carried out by a teacher the children know, their class teacher will be administering the test to all pupils. The other children will be taught by another teacher. The class will be following their planned curriculum.

Phonic Screening Check 2026

- The check will contain a mix of real words and 'non-words' (or 'nonsense words'). Your child will be told before the check that there will be non-words that he or she will not have seen before. Our children will be familiar with this because teachers already use 'non-words' when they teach phonics.
- Non-words are included because words such as 'vap' or 'jound' are new to all children. Children cannot read the non-words by using their memory or vocabulary; they have to use their decoding skills, which are an important part of learning to read.
- Your child may have read some of the words before, while others will be completely new.

saucers

charming

Section 2

flisp



braint



scrid



splote



Practice sheet: Real words

in

at

beg

sum

Practice sheet: Pseudo words

ot



vap



osk



ect



Examples of the phonics check

Your child will be asked to read a combination of real and nonsense words using their phonic knowledge.

delay

modern

How do we teach phonics?

- We teach phonics we use Essential Letters and Sounds.
- Children are taught sounds (phonemes) which are represented by letters (graphemes) with a ditty to help them remember.
- Listen to these sounds:



How do we say the phonemes?

Phase 2 – The first sounds the children learn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nBFnAcXHOUQ>

Phase 3 – The next set that the children learn

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDInVjBUGC0>

Phase 5 – The next set and all of these sounds are included in the Phonic Screening Check

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BwWD2ZlvBY>

Sounds can be made up of:

Single sounds:	j a m • • •
Digraphs :	c h i p — • •
Trigraphs :	h a i r • —
Split digraph:	s n a k e • • —

We have shown them how to use sound buttons to help children segment the sounds and encourage them to then blend the word together.

Can you sound button
these words...

- went

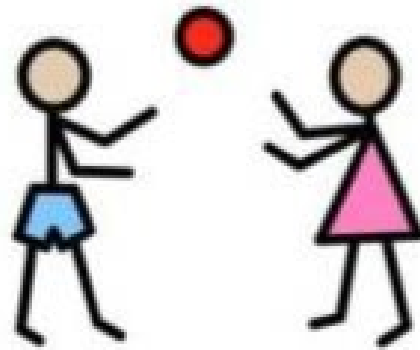
- play

- time

went



time

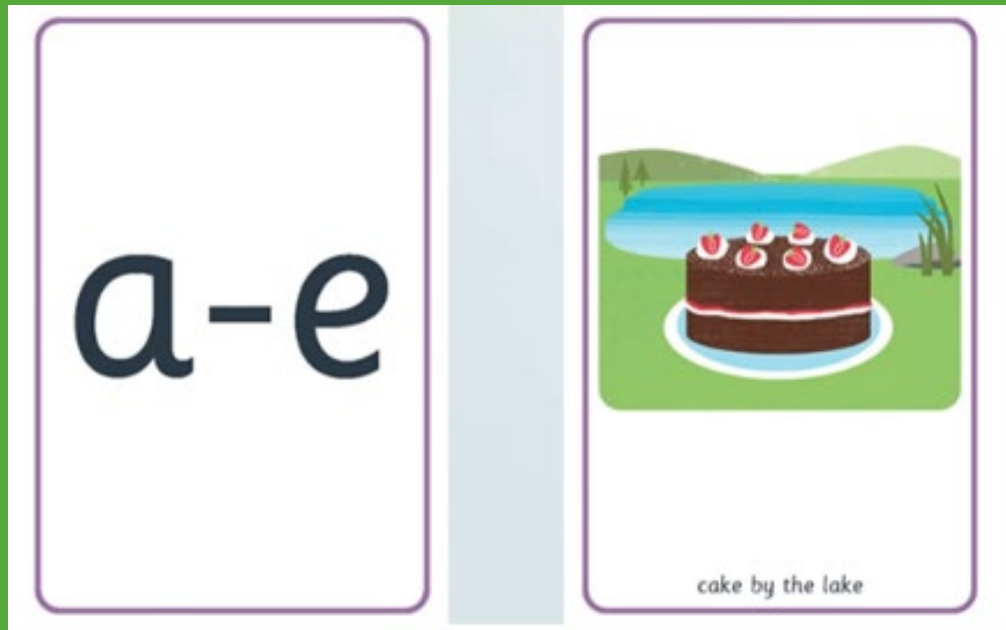


play



Split Diagraphs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iy4BNQg4pYE&safe=true>



Sound Families

As your child learns more sounds, you will notice that different graphemes will make the same sound e.g.

'ay' (play all day) and 'ai' (wait for the train) both make the same sound.

ay



play all day

ai



wait for the train

Useful websites

<https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com/>

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

www.twinkl.co.uk

www.oxfordowl.co.uk

www.booktrust.org.uk/book-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/

What can you do at home?

- Read regularly at home - even if your child can read fluently, please hear them read at least 4 times a week and discuss the text, ask them questions, ask them to find verbs, adverbs etc.
- Practise a few real and nonsense words everyday. Add sound buttons to them, make up your own words. We are sending these home weekly.
- If you notice there is a sound they struggle with, look for other words with that sound and make lists/ draw pictures for the words.

Thank you for coming today!

If you have any specific questions about your child, please contact their teacher.

