

 Year One

 Phonics Screening Check

Dear Parent/Carer,

During week beginning 9th June 2025 your child will be taking part in the Year One Phonics Screening Check. Children throughout the country will take the test during that week. If they are absent from school during that week, they will take it within the specified time frame. Children in year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required outcome when in year 1 or if they have taken the test before. The check is designed to allow schools to assess whether children have made expected progress within their phonics learning and have reached an appropriate standard. It can help teachers to identify gaps in children’s phonic knowledge and gives the school an understanding of where children may be excelling or requiring further support when they go into year 2. When all the tests have been completed, they will be marked, and the score will be sent to the Local Authority. You will be given your child’s score when you receive the end of year school report in July. Do not worry if your child does not pass the test. Their gaps in learning will be used to support future teaching in year 2.

The Phonics Screening Check is designed not to be stressful for your child. School should have prepared children well for it beforehand and it will not be referred to as a ‘test’. The test contains 40 words. Some of these words are real words and some are ‘non-words’ or ‘nonsense words’. Children will be prepared for the fact that some of the words will not be real words and these words are identifiable during the test by having a small image of an alien next to them. These ‘non-words’ are important because all children will need to use their decoding skills to read them as they will have not been learnt by sight. The test will take around 10 minutes per child, although children are allowed to work at their own pace and there is no time limit. If your child is struggling, the teacher can stop the check. Each child will sit one-to-one with an adult and will be asked to read the 40 words out aloud. We will stop the test and return back to it later in the day if your child is struggling to concentrate and focus. The children have taken part in phonics lessons all year. They have had lots of opportunities to practice in class so please do not worry. If you want to help your child, have a go at playing the following games.

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/5>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds>

Many Thanks

The Year One Team

An example of a list of words that children will read during the check:

