



Phonic Screening test: information for parents

What is it?

The phonics screening test is a short reading assessment, designed to show how well your child can use the phonics skills they have learned up to the end of Year 1.

Year 1 Phonics Screening Information Sessions

This year we are inviting Year 1 parents to attend one of our Phonics Screening Check Information sessions to talk about the up and coming Year 1 Phonics Screening Check in June. During the session we will recap what phonics is and how we teach it in school. We will look at some previous test papers and there will also be a chance to ask any questions you might have. The information sessions will last approximately half an hour and will be the same so you do not need to attend both. We have arranged one at the beginning of the day and one later after school so would hope that everyone will be able to attend one or the other.

Tuesday 16th April 9.00am and Thursday 18th April 5:00pm.

What's on it?

The assessment consists of 40 words (real and non-words) that your child will be asked to read. 'Non-words' (or nonsense words) have no meaning, but are simply a collection of letters that follow phonic rules your child has been taught. Your child will need to read these words using the correct sounds to show that they understand the phonic rules behind them. The assessment itself is carried out in a quiet room on a one-to-one basis, your child with their teacher. There is no time limit to the test.

When does the Y1 Phonics screening check take place in 2019?

Schools will administer the Year 1 phonics screening test the week beginning 10th June 2019.

How will I know how well my child did in the test?

Your child's class teacher will tell you how well your child did by the end of this year. If your child's score is below the standard mark, they will be given extra phonics help either in class or through additional support and they will re-take the phonics screening test at the end of Year 2.

School will not publish the full year group results.

Can I see a test before my child takes part in this activity?

To get an idea of what your child will be asked to do and see an example test for yourself simply google, 'Year 1 phonics screening check past papers'. This will take you to the Department for Education's web site where you can download official Year 1 phonics screening check past papers from 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

How can I help my child prepare?

You can help your child prepare for their phonics screening test by:-

- going over the phonics they've learned through Reception and Year
- reading a wide variety of new books and stories with them, where they will be introduced to new words that they'll have to sound out. In this way, you will automatically be able to review the phonic sounds and rules.
- playing word games like hangman, using real and non words
- making your own non words in paint, play dough, bubbles or lego!
- Having good attendance at school each week to enable your child to access teaching of phonic skills to support their development their learning.
- reading staff comments made in your child's reading diary. Tips from staff will support your child's reading development so you can do the same at home. This will have greater impact upon learning, independence and confidence.

Example of words:

shed : long : soil : chart

Example of non-words:

dack : chob : nurt : queet