



Phonics Screening Check 2026: Information for Parents

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

The Phonics Screening Check is a short assessment for Year 1 pupils in England, designed to confirm whether children have learned phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. It helps teachers identify pupils who need extra support with phonics.

When Will It Take Place?

The check will be administered during the week beginning Monday 8 June 2026.

What Does the Check Involve?

- Your child will be asked to read 40 words aloud to a familiar teacher.
- The words include both real words and pseudo-words (nonsense words) to assess decoding skills.
- Pseudo-words are used to ensure children apply their phonics knowledge to unfamiliar words.
- Each word is worth one mark, with a total possible score of 40.

What is Phonics?

Phonics is a method of teaching reading by developing learners' phonemic awareness—the ability to hear, identify, and manipulate phonemes—in order to teach the correspondence between these sounds and the spelling patterns (graphemes) that represent them. It involves:

- Recognising the sounds that letters make.
- Identifying the sounds that different combinations of letters make, such as 'sh' or 'oo'.
- Blending these sounds together to read words.

How Will I Receive the Results?

We will share your child's results with you. If your child does not meet the expected standard, they will receive additional support and will retake the check in Year 2.

How Can I Support My Child?

- Read regularly with your child and encourage them to read aloud.
- Practice phonics at home using resources provided by the school or available online.
- Engage in activities that develop sound-letter recognition and blending skills.
- Speak to your child's teacher for specific advice and resources.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to Miss Craig or Mrs Fry – Phonics Lead.