

# Phonics Screening Check

information for parents

Wednesday 6th May  
2026

# What is the Phonics Screening Check?

The phonics screening check is taken individually by year 1 and some year 2 children in England unless exempt. It is designed to give teachers and parents information on how your child is progressing in phonics. It will help to identify whether your child needs additional support at this stage so that they do not fall behind in this vital early reading skill. Children who need more practise will retake the check in Year 2.

Does my child have to take the screening check?

Who will administer the check?

When does the check take place?

How long does it take?

Is there a pass mark?

What if my child does not pass the check?

What if my child does pass the check?



Frequently  
asked  
questions

## What the screening check assesses...

The screening check only assesses your child's ability to decode (read) individual words accurately.

**This is not the same as a reading assessment.**

# Strategies to support blending for the screening check

Spot the special friends and underline them.  
(Dot and dash)

Carefully sound out the word using Fred talk.

Blend the sounds to read the word.

Be especially careful with alien words!

# The screening check

## Practice sheet: Real words

in

at

beg

sum

## Practice sheet: Pseudo words

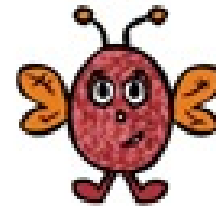
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## At school we will...

Continue daily phonics lessons.

Continue regular assessments to identify gaps in phonic knowledge.

Teach children to dot and dash (underline special friends).

Practise using previous screening checks.

Familiarise children with the check procedure.

# How to help your child at home

Play phonic games

Spot special friends in reading books

Practise dotting and dashing (word lists)

Support them to sound out and read unfamiliar words



Sound out tricky words to support blending

Make up alien names

Always be positive!

**Any questions?**

***Thank you for coming!***