



Year One

Phonics Screening Check

A Guide for Parents



What is 'Phonics?'

Children begin to learn phonics (sounds) in Early Years.



Once children begin learning sounds, these sounds are used orally to identify and make words.



They will then begin to learn the letters which make each of the sounds and these are used to read and spell words.



What is the Phonics Screening Check?



- A statutory assessment for Year 1 children in England.
- The schools across the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the same week – 12th – 16th June.
- Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result previously or they have not taken the check before.
- The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.
- This is a very low key event, with children completing a 'Phonics Quiz' and we have found by delivering it in this way, children are relaxed and enjoy having a go.



What Happens During the Check?

- The check contains 40 words.
- Each child will sit one-to-one and read each word aloud to a familiar adult- usually the class teacher, but maybe Mrs McLellan or Mrs Couch.
- The check will take approximately 10 minutes per child, although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace.
- The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words).



Examples of words

day

snemp



slide

blurst



newt

spron



phone

stroft



The pseudo words are shown with a picture of an alien so they know it is not a real word.

Pseudo words are included because they will be new to all pupils; they do not favour children with a good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words.



Reporting to Parents

You will receive your child's result in the summer term. The form you receive will show your child's score out of 40. Children need to score 32 or more to meet the expected level. When it is released, we will also share the percentage of children nationally who met the expected level.

Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the check when they are in Year 2.

They will receive additional intervention to help them to reach the expected standard.

The National pass rate was 75% in 2022. For Hertfordshire it was 76%.

The results have been affected by lockdown. The last time the test was conducted before lockdown – in 2019 – results were 82% Nationally and 84% for Hertfordshire.

Our results were also impacted but we have been working hard to turn that around.

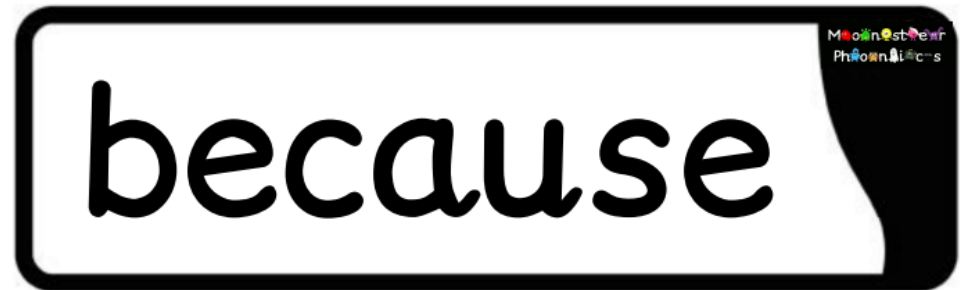


Preparing children in school



The children have been having daily phonics lessons since Reception. This year we have adopted the Monster Phonics scheme, which introduces new graphemes in conjunction with a colour-coded monster, linked to the sound the grapheme represents.

As children become secure in new graphemes, the colour of the letters returns to black, to avoid over reliance on the colour-coding.





Practice quizzes

niff



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Phonics
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slow

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Phonics
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dass



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heat

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quazz



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Practice quizzes

floys



appear

sloke



include

gutch



better

blard



ditch



How Can I Help My Child at Home?

- Support us by keeping the check low key.
- Read as much as possible, to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise – ask them to have a 'good guess'.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each one, e.g. /c/ in cat, /p/ in pat, /ng/ in sing, /ee/ in been. Next move your finger under the whole word as you say it.
- If your child is a strong reader, encourage them to look at the letters carefully to ensure they are not trying to make a word
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.
- Practise by playing Buried Treasure on phonics play.
<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/2/buried-treasure>
- Mr Thorne Does Phonics: YouTube search
- Targeted, specific flashcards sent home by Easter for specific children who need it.



Any questions?