

# Year One Phonics Screening Check

Dear Parents/Carers

All Year One children will take part in a phonics screening check during the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

I have provided some information below explaining what the Phonics Screening Check entails.

## Do all schools and children have to participate?

All schools and academies in England must take part in the phonics screening check unless they are an independent school.

## What is the year One Phonics screening check?

The phonics screening check will be taken individually by all children in Year One each year. It is designed to give teachers and parent's 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 have all the reading skills they need.

## What is in the phonics screening check?

There will be two sections in this 40-word check and it will assess phonics skills and knowledge learned through Reception and Year One. Your child will read up to four words per page for their teacher and they will probably do the check in one sitting of about 5-10 minutes.

## What will it check?

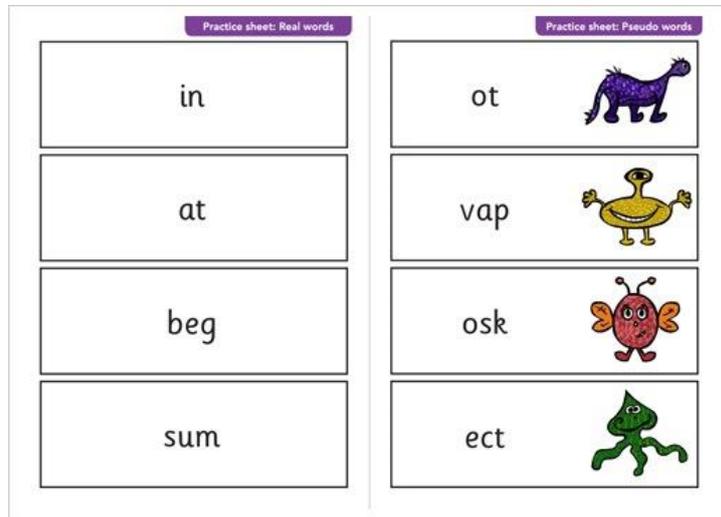
It will check that your child can:

- Sound out and blend graphemes in order to read simple words.
- Read phonically decodable one-syllable and two-syllable words, e.g. cat, sand, windmill.
- Read a selection of nonsense words which are referred to as pseudo words

## What are nonsense or pseudo words and why are they included?

These are words that are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning e.g. brip, snorb. Pseudo words are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using phonics skills and not their memory.

The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of a monster and they will be asked to tell their teacher what sort of monster it is by reading the word. This not only makes the check a bit more fun, but provides the children with a context for the nonsense word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have. Crucially, it does not provide any clues, so your child just has to be able to decode it. Children generally find nonsense amusing so they will probably enjoy reading these words.



### Is there a pass mark?

The check is not about passing or failing but checking appropriate progress is being made. If children do not reach the required standard, then the teacher will be in touch to discuss plans and offer additional, tailored support to ensure that your child can catch up. Children progress at different speeds so not reaching the threshold score does not necessarily mean there is a serious problem. Your child will re-sit the check the following summer term.

I hope that the above provides you with enough information regarding the Phonics Screening Check. We play many games in the classroom which involve real and nonsense words and the children enjoy these games. A great website to visit to help your child further is [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk) You do not need to subscribe as there are free games which the children are confident at using. These include 'Obb and Bob', 'Pirates Treasure' and 'Dragons Den'.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like further information

Kind Regards

Mrs H. Wilson and Mrs Belfield