

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check



What is phonics?

- Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully. They are taught how to:
 - recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes;
 - identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make - such as 'sh' or 'oo'; (zoo/look)
 - blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.
- Children can then use this knowledge to de-code or read new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.



About the Phonics Screening

- The Phonics Screening is a statutory assessment for all children in Year 1.
- The Phonics Screening will take place in the Summer Term.
- The Screening is designed to assess children's phonic understanding and decoding abilities.



What is the Phonics Screening?

- The Screening contains 40 words divided into two sections.
- In each section there are a mixture of real words, and pseudo words.
- Section 1 contains words that can be sounded out and blended. Section 2 contains more complex words.



Pseudo words

- Pseudo words are 'fake' words.
- Next to each pseudo word will be a picture of an imaginary creature or alien.
- The picture is used to provide a context for the word they are being asked to decode.
- Using pseudo words allows the assessment to focus purely on decoding using phonics.



For example...

Practice sheet: Real words

in

at

beg

sum

Practice sheet: Pseudo words

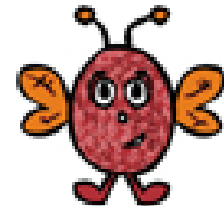
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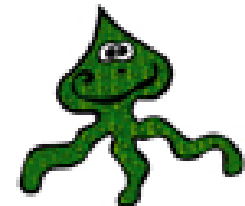
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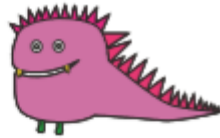
ect



The words gradually get harder...

plug

vaw



label

brend



sweep

meast



vanish

throst



soft

waib



blossom

stret



yards

zome



thankful

spraw



Completing the Phonics Screening

- The child will work with a familiar teacher in a quiet environment.
- The child will work through each word in order.
- The teacher will record whether the child has read the word correctly or not.
- The total number of words read correctly is compared to the national expectations.



Completing the Phonics Screening

- There is no time limit for the check. The children can take as long as they need.
- For those children who find it challenging to concentrate for long periods, the check can be broken up into short blocks.



Reporting

- If your child has achieved the expected level, the report will show 'working at expected level'
- If your child has achieved below the expected level, the report will show 'working towards expected level'



My child has not met the expected
standard

- Don't worry!
- If your child has not met the expected standard by the end of Year 1 they will receive further support in Phonics.
- The children will then retake the Screening in the Summer Term the following year.



How you can help

- Encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend the sounds together from left to right rather than looking at the pictures to guess.
- Try to make time to read with your child regularly. Grandparents and older brothers or sisters can help, too.
- Encourage your child to read a variety of texts. This could include road signs, newspapers, magazines, posters and adverts.
- Add sound buttons to words....



Sound buttons

• ch ai n

• r igh t



Resources to support at home

www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/

- Access a full range of resources at Little Wandle (our school phonics programme)

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

- Has a variety of free phonics resources for your child to play. These games include both pseudo and real words.

www.ictgames.com

- The Literacy section has games for all different levels of ability.



In Phonics all children are
taught all of the Year 1
phonics curriculum

AND

if they need help to 'keep up'
they will have extra group
sessions.



Questions

