

Year 1 Phonics Screening Guide for Parents



An Introduction to Phonics

Words are made up from small units of sound called *phonemes*. Phonics teaches children to be able to listen carefully and identify the phonemes that make up each word. This helps children to learn to read words and to spell words.



Phonics Statutory Assessment

At the end of Year 1, there is a statutory assessment test for Phonics. This Year 1 phonics screening check takes place *nationally* in June each year and involves the children reading real and nonsense words to confirm whether individual children have learnt sufficient phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard. Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when in Year 1, or they have not taken the test before.

During the test, your child will read 40 words – 20 real words and 20 nonsense words (alien words). Each child will sit one to one with a teacher and read each word aloud. The test will take approximately 10 minutes, although children are all different and will complete the check at their own pace.

Reading nonsense words is a perfect way to check that your child can blend phonemes for reading, by reading a word they have never seen before, e.g. ch – au – g *chaug*. We aim to prepare the children fully for this check by encouraging them to read real and nonsense words in daily RWI sessions.

Reporting to Parents

By the end of the summer term all schools must report their child's results to parents. They will also confirm if your child has met the standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test in Year 2.

How can you help?

- Support your child by helping them remember the phonics sounds. Regular practise helps your child apply these skills day-to-day. You can find the RWI sounds in your child's reading record.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Each week, as part of homework, your child will bring home a new word list. Please practise reading the real and nonsense words with your child. Encourage them to blend the sounds for reading (e.g. ch – i – p *chip*, sh – oa – g *shoag*). It is important that they blend the sounds to say the whole word.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to look for the 'special friends' (two letters making one sound).
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.



In addition, there is a range of excellent websites that you can visit with your child.

Thank you for your continued support.

Phonics Jargon Buster

Phoneme: a sound in a word

Grapheme: a letter or sequence of letters that represent a phoneme

Special Friends or a digraph: 2 letters making one sound (e.g. ch, ai, ee)

Split digraph: where the two letters are not adjacent (e.g. e_e, a_e, i_e, o_e, u_e)

Trigraph: 3 letters making one sound (e.g. air, igh)

Segmenting: means breaking words down into their phonemes to spell (e.g. cat ... c – a – t)

Blending: is the reverse of segmenting. When you blend, you build words from their phonemes to read (e.g. ch – ai – n ... chain)

Phonics websites to support your child

1. Read Write Inc's (RWI) You Tube Channel
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo7fbLqY2oA_cFClq9GdxtQ
2. www.phonicsplay.co.uk
3. Mr Thorne does Phonics https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7sW4j8p7k9D_qRRMUsGqyw
4. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/> (Try Deep Sea Phonics!)
5. <http://www.focusonphonics.co.uk/sound.htm> (You can hear the sounds on this website.)
6. <https://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com>
7. www.ictgames.com/literacy.html (You will find a great selection of games that link well with games in Letters and Sounds.)

Apps

Hairy Letters