



Year 1



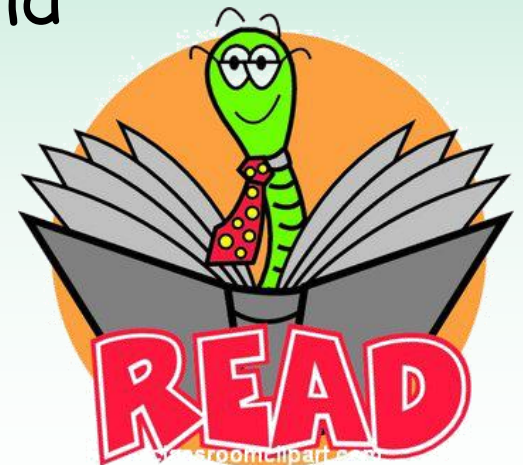
Phonics

Screening



When and why are the children being screened?

- Every Year 1 child in the country will be taking the phonics screening check in the same week in June.
- The aim of the check is to ensure that all children are able to read by the end of Year 2.



The Phonics Screening Check is meant to show how well your child can use the phonics skills they've learned up to the end of Year 1, and to identify students who need extra phonics help.

The Department for Education defines the checks as "short, light-touch assessments" that take about four to nine minutes to complete.

What will the children be expected to do?

- The check is very similar to tasks the children already complete during phonics lessons.

- Children will be asked to 'sound out' a word and blend the sounds together. eg d-o-g - dog



- The focus of the check is to see which sounds the children know and therefore the children will be asked to read made up 'nonsense' words.

THIS IS NOT A READING TEST



What will the children be expected to do?

- The children will be asked to decode 40 words.
- 20 of these words are real words.
- 20 of them are nonsense words.
- The nonsense words will be identified with pictures of aliens.
- It tests the decoding skills of children and they are encouraged to look for special friends (two or more letters that make one sound eg sh, ee, igh, ay etc....)

THIS IS NOT A READING TEST



What will the children be expected to do?

Non-words (or nonsense words, or pseudo words) are a collection of letters that will follow phonics rules your child has been taught, but don't mean anything - your child will need to read these with the correct sounds to show that they understand the phonics rules behind them.

What will the children be expected to do?

The 40 words and non-words are divided into two sections - one with simple word structures of three or four letters, and one with more complex word structures of five or six letters.

When administering the check with your child I will give them a few practice words to read first - including some non-words - so they understand more about what they have to do. Each of the non-words is presented with a picture of a monster / alien, as if the word were their name (and so your child doesn't think the word is a mistake because it doesn't make sense!).

Examples of words:

in

at

beg

sum

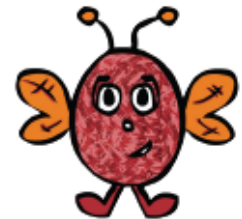
ot



vap



osk



ect



When will the screening take place?

- The screening will take place throughout the week beginning **Monday 15th June**. The children cannot take the test at any other time so it is very important your child is in school during this week.

- The check has been designed so that children of all abilities will be able to take part.

Who will complete the check?

- The children will complete the check one at a time in a quiet area of the school.

- I will conduct all of the screening checks with the children.

The screening will take about 10 mins with each child.



Shhhhh!

Scoring the check?

Your child will be scored against a national standard, and the main result will be whether or not they fall below, within or above this standard.

In 2013 and 2014 the "pass threshold" was 32, which means children had to read at least 32 words out of 40 correctly. In 2015 the threshold mark will be communicated to schools at the end of June, after the test has been taken, so that teachers can mark the Check.

You will be told how your child did, but schools' results will not be published. If your child's score falls below the standard, they will be given extra phonics help and can re-take the Phonics screening check in Year 2.

How can you help?

•Encourage your child to 'sound out' when reading or writing. Focusing particularly on spotting more unusual sound patterns.

"Look for the special friends"

Eg: Digraph- 2 letters making one sound

cow

Trigraphs- 3 letters making one sound

night

Split digraphs- 2 vowels with a consonant inbetween. Use to be known as the magic e!

spine - i_e

How can you help?

You can see past tests at :

<http://www.satspapers.org.uk/Page.aspx?TId=21>

There is also a video of a test being performed and scored.

Take a look at the list of phonemes which could be included in the check.

How can you help?

- **REMEMBER:** Phonics is not the only thing needed to become a fluent reader.
- Please continue to read with your child each night and encourage them to:
 - Sound out
 - Re-read to check it makes sense.
 - Use pictures for clues.
 - Ask questions about the book. Check understanding.
 - And most importantly **ENJOY READING!**

Questions?

