

Woodstone Community Primary School



Year 1

Phonics Screening Check

A guide for parents

What Is Phonics?

Children begin to learn phonics (sounds) in Reception.

Once children begin learning sounds, they use this knowledge to read and spell words. Children can then see the purpose of learning sounds. For this reason, the first initial sounds that are taught are 's', 'a', 't', 'p', 'i', 'n'.

These can immediately be blended for reading to make simple CVC words (consonant, vowel, consonant) e.g. sat, pin. Children then develop segmenting for writing skills; breaking the word into sounds to spell it out.

What Is The Phonics Screening Check?

Children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the same week in June. 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. Head teachers should decide whether it is appropriate for each of their pupils to take the phonics screening check.

The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt sufficient phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.

What Happens During The 'Test'?

The whole process will be very relaxed – the children will not see the phonics check as a 'test'.

The screening contains 40 words.

Each child will sit one to one and read each word aloud to Miss Pickering.

The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child; although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace.

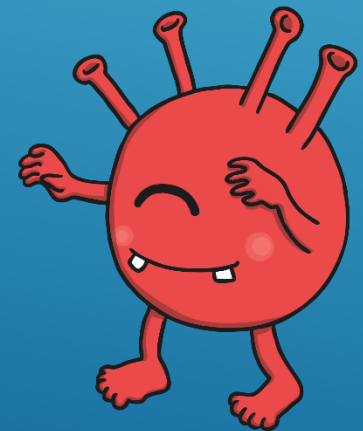
The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words).

Pseudo Words (Nonsense Words)

The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This provides the children with a context for the pseudo word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have.

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.

Your child may refer to these words as 'alien' words.



Example Of The Check

Practice sheet: Real Words

beg

twinkl.co.uk

at

twinkl.co.uk

sum

twinkl.co.uk

in

twinkl.co.uk

Example Of The Check

Practice sheet: Pseudo Words

vap



twinkl.co.uk

osk



twinkl.co.uk

ot



twinkl.co.uk

ect



twinkl.co.uk

How Are The Results Used?

Results from the check will be used by schools to analyse their own performance and for Ofsted to use in inspections.

In addition, the results will be passed on to your child's Year 2 teacher to ensure they continue to be supported in developing their early reading and decoding skills in Year 2.

The results of the screen will not be shared with the children.

How Can I Help My Child At Home?

- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Practise your child's sound flashcards regularly
- Encourage your child to use their decoding skills to read new words
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each letter, e.g. /c/ in cat, or the letter group, e.g. /ng/ in sing. Next move your finger under the whole word as you say it.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.