



## A Guide for Parents and Carers: Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Next half term the Year 1 children will be taking the Phonics Screening Check. This guide is designed to give you more information about the check itself, examples of words used in previous years (these will not be used again), how the results will be used, and possible activities to help your child.

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### What is the phonics screening check?

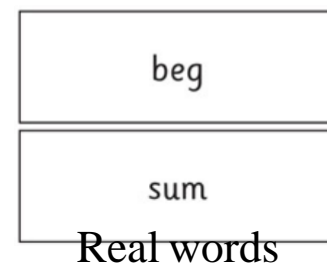
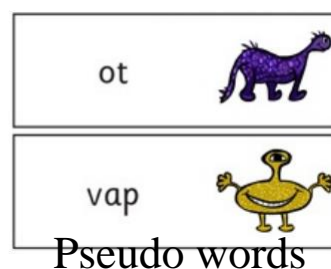
The National Phonics Screening Check is a statutory assessment introduced in 2012 to all Year 1 pupils. It is devised to confirm whether pupils have learned phonic decoding (breaking words down into the sounds that make them up and saying the word) to an age-appropriate standard at the end of Year 1.

It involves your child sitting with their teacher and reading 40 words in total. It begins with practice words that are not scored and then moves onto the test where both real and pseudo-words are included.

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

These are words that are phonetically decodable but not actually words with an associated meaning, e.g. brip, snorp. These words are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using phonic skills and not their memory. The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture prompt of an imaginary creature.



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### Real and nonsense words used in recent screening checks

fot	lect	quigh	fuel
keb	voisk	herks	name
gan	thin	jorb	props
ulp	peck	zale	spoilt
poth	torn	bluns	scram
shan	cheek	skarld	strike
veen	trap	splot	panic
quorg	snarl	strabe	second
drap	milk	toy	tantrum
flarm	moist	spike	reaching

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## Real and nonsense words used in recent screening checks

vol	bulm	jair	main
teg	harnd	clain	rude
jat	quiz	yewn	drink
ind	back	tabe	crowds
tull	doom	clisk	splat
shog	short	thrand	stripe
foid	freed	strad	comic
thard	dress	scroy	giving
frem	fund	nigh	pumpkin
cloin	think	brown	fighters

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## How will the results from the screening check be used?

You will be informed of how your child has done in the screening check towards the end of the summer term.

The screening check will identify children who have phonic skills below expectations for the end of Year 1. Schools are then expected to provide extra help and support. The children who do not pass will then be able to retake the assessment in Year 2.

**It is necessary to note here that the test is not an indicator of how well children read, simply how well they decode words. Therefore there may be some children who read at, or above, the expected standard that do not pass this test.**

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## How can I help my child?

There are a number of things that parents can do to support reading development:

- Let your child see you enjoy reading yourself. They are influenced by you and what you do!
- Immerse your child in a love of reading.
- Make time for your child to read their school book to you.
- With all books, encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend from left to right rather than just looking at the pictures to guess.
- Practice segmenting (sounding out) and blending (putting words back together) words.

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We hope this information is useful.  
Remember, we are here to help your child achieve their very best. If you have any questions or queries at all, please do not hesitate to ask or contact the Year 1 team.

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