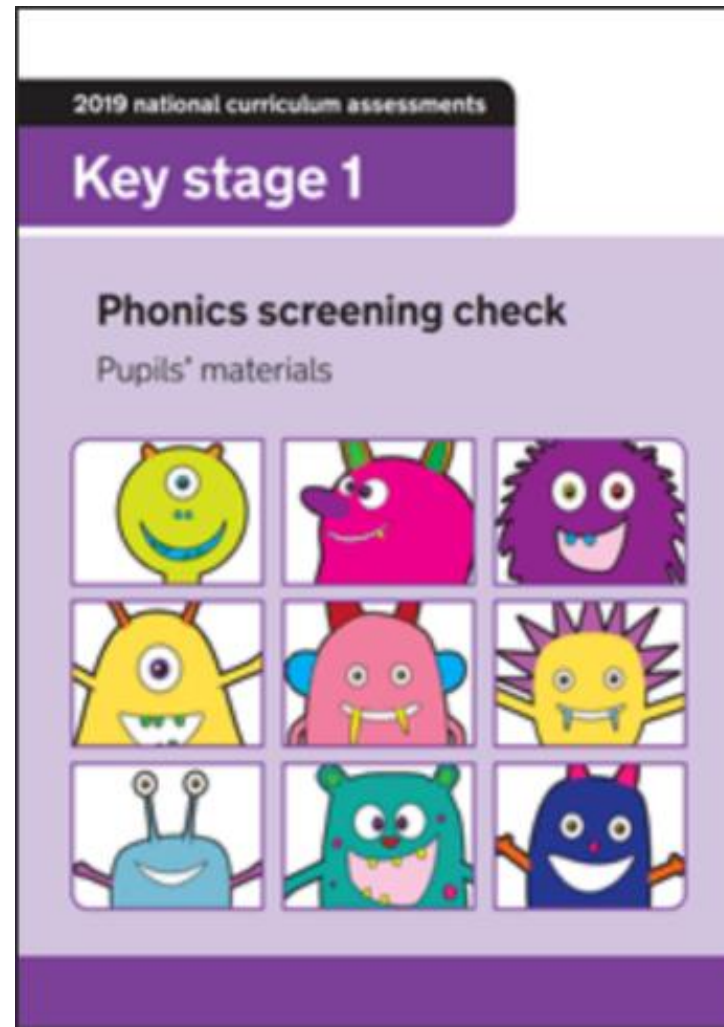


Phonics Screening Check



In Reception

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully.

Children are taught how to recognise the sounds each individual letter makes e.g. s, a, t, p

Children learn the sounds that two letters can make e.g. sh, ch (these are called digraphs).

Children learn the sounds that three letters can make e.g. air, ear, igh (these are called trigraphs).

There are no new graphemes taught during phase 4. Here, children are taught to blend and read longer words with adjacent consonants.

For example:

cvcc - milk, sink

ccvc - train, float

ccvcc - print

They also learn to read two-syllable words. Children are taught to 'chunk' these words into syllables or to look for known words within words. This helps to make them less daunting to attempt to read.

For example: Handstand - hand/stand, Sandpit - sand/pit, Lunchbox - lunch/box

Phase 2

Focus and example word

Unit 1	s sat	a at	t tap	p pat			
Unit 2	i pip	n nan	m map	d did			
Unit 3	g gef	o on	c cat	k kid			
Unit 4	ck sock	e ten	u nut	r rat			
Unit 5	h hat	b big	f fin	ff puff	l leg	ll bell	ss mess



Phase 3

Focus and example word

Unit 6	j jog	v van	w web	x box		
Unit 7	y yes	z zip	zz fizz	qu quiz		
Unit 8	ch chop	sh ship	th cloth	th them	ng hang	
Unit 9	ai rain	ee peel	igh night	oa coat	oo book	oo moon
Unit 10	ar jar	or born	ur surf	ow cow	oi soil	
Unit 11	ear hear	air pair	ure cure	er sister		

Phase 4

Unit 12 Consolidation



Phonics in Year 1

In Year 1, children consolidate their learning of phonics taught in Reception and will also learn new ways to represent and pronounce sounds.

They are taught to identify the graphemes in words as they read and also to try alternative pronunciations if the word does not make sense when they blend it initially.

For example:

child - children may initially use the phoneme /i/ as in insect (as this is the sound they are most familiar with). We would encourage them to consider other pronunciations, such as /i/ as in wild.

Phase 5					
Focus and example word					
Unit 13	wh whip	ph dolphin			
Unit 14	ay spray	a-e plate	eigh weigh	ey they	ei reins
Unit 15	ea seat	e-e these	ie brief	ey hockey	y very
Unit 16	ie pie	i-e slide	y fly	i wild	
Unit 17	ow snow	o-e phone	o both	oe toe	
Unit 18	ew screw	ue glue	u-e cute	u push	oul should
Unit 19	aw claw	au launch	al small		
Unit 20	ir girl	er perk	ear search		
Unit 21	ou cloud	oy boy			



Phonics Screening Check

The phonics screening check was initially piloted in around 300 schools in 2011.

In September 2011, the phonics screening check was then made statutory for all children in Year 1.

The phonics screening check takes place in June each year.

The assessment is age-appropriate, with children sitting with their class teacher. It is on a one-to-one basis and **should be seen as an enjoyable activity**, which lasts no longer than 10 minutes.

The phonics screening check is a “**short, light-touch assessment**” to confirm whether children have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard for their age.



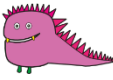
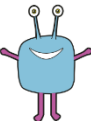
It will also identify any gaps in the children’s phonic knowledge so that class teachers can support children further with their reading skills as they move into Year 2.

Children should not realise that they are being formally assessed. The check should be seen as part of their everyday phonics activities. The children have already completed practise checks with their teacher in Year 1, so they are familiar with the format of the check.

The check comprises of a list of 40 words with half of the words covering the phonics skills which are taught in Reception and half of the words based on Year 1 phonics skills.

Within the 40 words, there are real and nonsense words. Your child will be told that the activity will include nonsense words and will be familiar with what this means.

Nonsense words are used when teaching phonics because they cannot be read by using memory or known vocabulary. This means that children have to use their decoding skills, which is a strategy used when reading any new and unfamiliar word.

Section 2	Section 2
jer 	elbow
drave 	taylor
teap 	sequins
phibe 	whirling

Your child will be scored against a national standard, and the main result will be whether meet the threshold or not.

In 2013 - 2023 the “**pass threshold**” was 32, which means that children had to read at least 32 words out of 40 correctly. The threshold mark is communicated to schools at the end of June, after the test has been taken.

You will be told your child’s score by the end of the summer term, but schools’ results are not required to be published.

If your child does not meet the threshold, they will retake the test when they are in Year 2. This is so that they can be given further support with their phonic decoding skills.

How can you help your child?

- Make time for your child to read their school book to you and encourage them to practise their decoding skills.
- Help your child access their Bug Worlds and encourage them to use the actions for sounds videos to practise their phoneme/grapheme recognition. Also play their games and access their online books to support their reading further.
- Practise reading words including the sounds they have learnt in Reception and Year 1. Let them practise reading nonsense words - these are the words that might trick them! Games will be added to your child’s Bug Worlds to help with this. Please support them when working on these to make sure they are reading words correctly.
- Encourage your child to sound out unfamiliar words and blend the sounds to read the word, rather than looking at the picture to guess.
- Support your child with ‘chunking’ longer words into smaller amounts before blending them all back together. [Chunk It | Fun Phonics Song for Kids | Chunking | Reading Strategies | Jack Hartmann \(youtube.com\)](#)

There are lots of websites with fun phonics games that the children can practise further on:

[PhonicsPlay - Phase 5 Resources](#) (Dragon's Den, Picnic on Pluto and Buried Treasure)

[Odd And Bob \(Phase 5\) - Online Phonics Game \(phonicsbloom.com\)](#)

[Letters and Sounds - Free phonics resources for the Letters and Sounds programme \(letters-and-sounds.com\)](#)

If you would like any more information or explanation, please do not hesitate to speak to us in school.