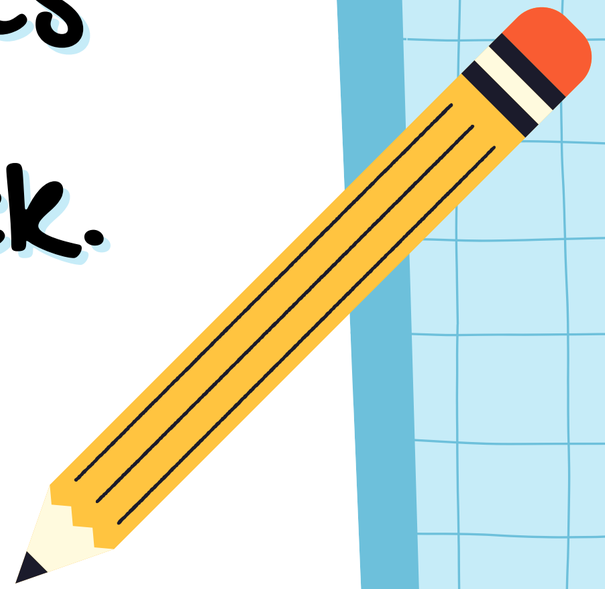
Parents' guide to the KS1 Phonics Screening Check.

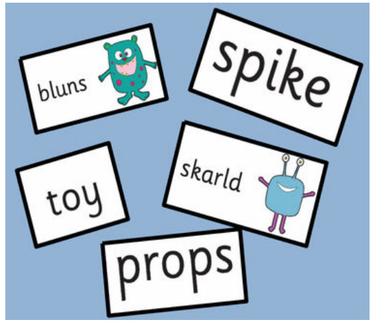


What is the Phonics Screening Check?

Bug Club

Phonics

Through phonics, children are taught how to recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes and identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make.
Children can then use this knowledge to 'decode' new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read



The check

The phonics screening check contains 40 words divided into two sections of 20 words. Both sections contain a mixture of real words and pseudo-words.

The check is designed to give teachers information on how your child is progressing in phonics. It will help to identify whether your child needs additional support at this stage, so that they do not fall behind in this vital early reading skill.



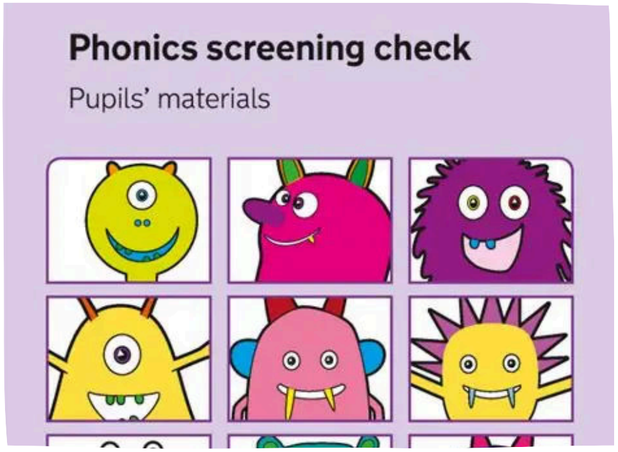
PSEUDO WORDS

Pseudo-words are words that are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning. They are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using their phonics skills. All pseudo-words in the check are accompanied by a picture of an imaginary creature.

Children are taught that when a word has a creature next to it, it is a pseudo-word. This ensures that they are not trying to match the pseudo-word to a word in their vocabulary

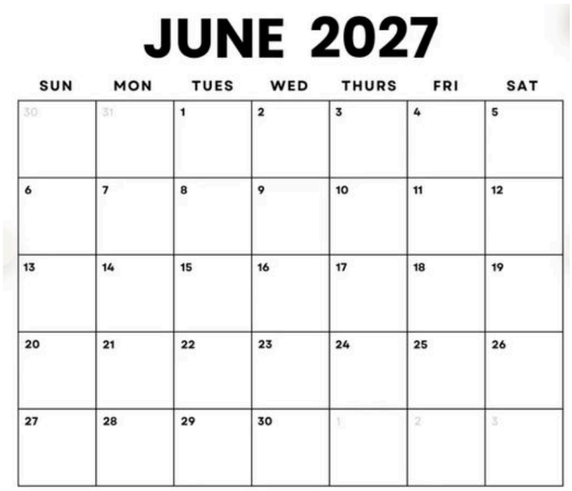
Frequently asked questions...

Who is the check for?



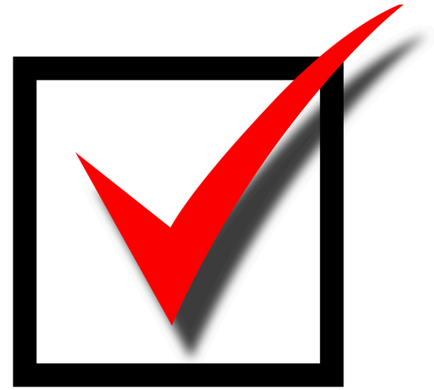
The screening check is for all Year 1 pupils and children in Year 2 who previously did not meet the standard of the check in Year 1

When is the check?



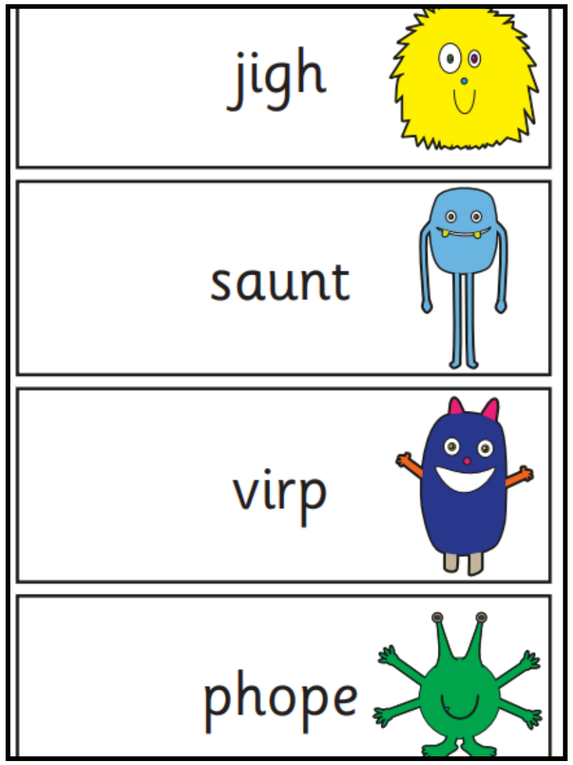
The check will be done 1:1 with a familiar adult during the week beginning 14th June 2027.

What is the pass mark?



Last years pass mark was 31 out of 40, previously it has been 32 out of 40.

A BIT MORE ABOUT THE CHECK



All children need to be able to identify sounds associated with different letters, and letter combinations, and then blend these sounds together to correctly say the word on the page.

The same skill is needed whether the word is a real word or a non-word.

The words gradually get harder through the check as the combinations of letters become more complicated.

Children will also need to recognise 'alternative' sounds in real words, such as 'y' in the word happy having the pronunciation 'ee'.

Practising



Reading

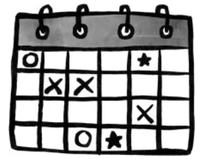
Regular reading will support your child to practise a range of skills, including blending and decoding.

With all books, encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend the sounds together from left to right rather than looking at the pictures to guess. Once your child has read an unfamiliar word, you can talk about what it means and help them to follow the story.



Home learning

As part of the Phonics home learning, we will send home a mixture of real and pseudo words for you to practise reading with your child.



Additional practise

Each half term, we will go through a practise check with the children so they become familiar with the process. We will send home a copy of their results.

The results

When will you find out the results?

Your child's results will be sent home along with their end of year report.

What happens if they do not pass?

Children who have not met the standard in year 1 will re-take the phonics screening check in year 2. The results of any re-take will also be shared with you

How will the results be used?

Schools will have access to all their pupils' results to identify those who need additional support and make plans to help them improve. The Department for Education does not publish school-level results for the phonics screening check

Any other questions?

Please feel free to speaK to us if you have any questions or concerns.



For more details, you can also visit www.gov.uK/STA (https://www.gov.uK/government/organisations/standards-and-testing-agency).