



# Phonics Screening 2025

*Welcome!*



# Some statistics

In December 2018, research found that nearly 90% of children who passed the phonics check taken in Year 1 reached or exceeded the expected standard in reading by Year 6.

Accurate word reading at the age of six is a strong predictor of future reading success.

# What is the Phonics Screening Check?

- A word-reading check taken during the week commencing 9th June 2026.
- 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.
- Children read words, either by sight or using ULS strategies.
- The check takes no more than 10 minutes and is done on a 1:1 basis.
- The threshold is usually 32 words read correctly.
- If they do not manage to read 32 of the words, they are given extra support, and repeat the check at the end of Year 2.
- The aim is that all children will be able to read accurately before they begin Year 3.
- 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.

# Real and Pseudo Words

## Real Words

- Words that can be read through decoding and blending.
- **These are real words that have meaning.**
- Examples of real words:

sort

chill

split

stripe

ramp

corns

elbow

tailor

## 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.

- Examples of Pseudo words:

zeg 

deeg 

brop 

brop 

ild 

quish 

sleen 

sleen 

# How are the results 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, but schools will have access to national, regional and local authority results to allow them to benchmark their pupils' performance.
- Your child's teacher will share your child's score with you in the second half of the summer term on their school report.
- 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.



# What Can You Do To Help?

- Phonics works best when children are given plenty of encouragement and learn to enjoy reading and books. Parents play a very important role in facilitating this.
- With all books, encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend the sounds together from left to right. Once your child has read an unfamiliar word, you can discuss its meaning.
- Read your child's 'decodable' reading book with them a minimum of three times a week.
- Continue to read to your child regularly to expose them to new and unfamiliar language.
- Practice unfamiliar grapheme reading.
- Encourage your child to read both real and pseudo words at home, adding sound buttons if they are struggling to identify digraphs and trigraphs.
- Please speak to us if you need further support in developing your own phonics knowledge.
- We have conducted practice tests with the children; your child's teacher should have shared their latest score at the parents' evening.

# Questions?

