

# Phonics Screening Check

## Parent & Carer Guide



## What is the Phonics Screening Check?

- ▶ All children in Year 1 must take the Phonics Screening Check in the Summer term.
- ▶ This year it will be during the week - 8th June  
(It is very important that children are in school during this week.)
- ▶ The Phonics Screening Check is used to assess children's phonics knowledge and their ability to decode and read words.
- ▶ It does not test their understanding of words or vocabulary.
- ▶ The test will contain 40 words - 20 real words and 20 nonsense words. The nonsense words are designed to assess their ability to use their phonics skills.



# What does the test look like?

Practice sheet: Real words

in
at
beg
sum

Practice sheet: Pseudo words

ot	
vap	
osk	
ect	

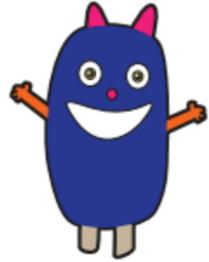
- The check starts with a practise sheet- this is used to familiarise children with the check. Teachers will explain the layout of the check and talk to children about what they can expect.
- They will then move on to the beginning of the check. During the check, teachers are not allowed to give children reminders or help.
- The words get harder as the check goes on.
- All nonsense words have a picture of a creature next to them so children know they are not real words.



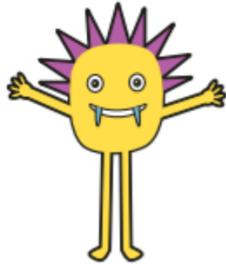
# What does the test look like?

## Section 1

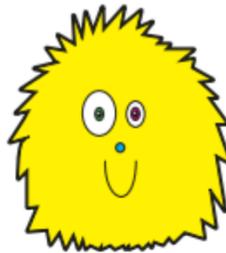
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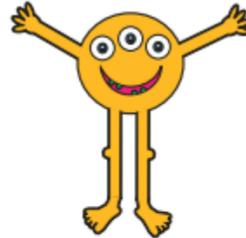


## Section 2

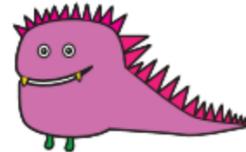
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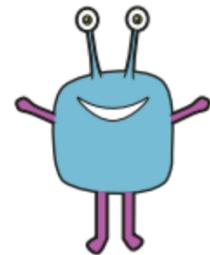
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## Section 2

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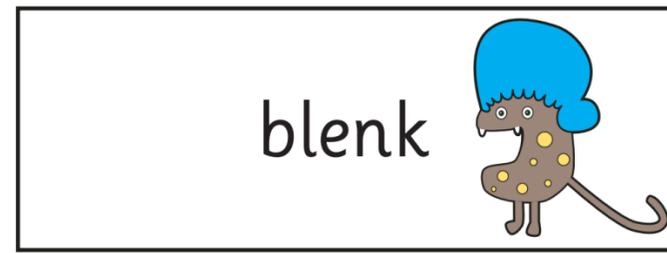
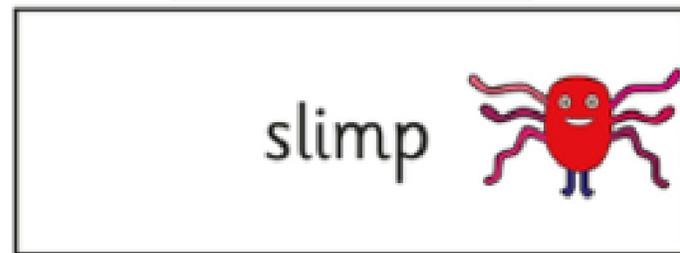
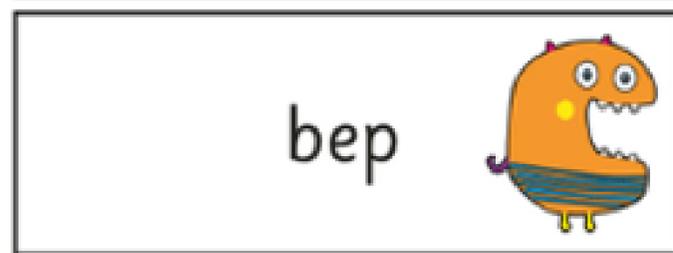
sequins

whirling



# What makes the test difficult?

Words that look like real words (bep= beep) (slimp= slip) (blenk= blink)



Spotting digraphs/ trigraphs in words especially split sounds



## How does the Phonic Screen Check work?

- ▶ Children will work individually with their class teacher in a quiet room to read each word on the check.
- ▶ They will be encouraged to sound out and then read each word. For example, d-o-g, dog. Even if children are confident readers, they will still be asked to sound out each word. This is to ensure that they are taking their time and reading each word carefully.
- ▶ There is no time limit for the check. It normally takes around 5-10 minutes per child.
- ▶ Teachers are not allowed to give children any help during the check or tell children if they read the word correctly or not.
- ▶ Teachers do not know which words are going to be in this years' check. They will see them for the first time when completing the check with the children.



## Results of the check

- ▶ The government sets the pass mark for the screen check each year. Most years the pass mark has been 32/40. We do not find out the pass mark until after the test.
- ▶ You will get your child's result with their report at the end of the year. Teachers cannot tell you before this whether your child has passed or not as they will not know the pass mark for this year.
- ▶ The results are used by school to show which children are secure in their phonics knowledge and which children may continue to need support with phonics in Year 2.
- ▶ If children do not meet the required pass mark in Year 1, they will need to do the Phonics Screening Check again at the end of Year 2.



## How is phonics taught in school?

- ▶ We use ELS phonics which is taught daily in school. Children have a phonics lesson every morning. It is really important that children are on time for school as phonics is the first lesson taught.
- ▶ Children are taught the sounds (phonemes) which include single letter sounds like b, c, d and then they are taught digraphs like sh, ch, ai before moving onto trigraphs like igh (making the igh sound in night) and quadgraphs like eigh (making the eigh sound in eight).
- ▶ They are then taught to decode which means identifying each sound in the word and blending them together to read the whole word.
- ▶ During the screening check, children will need to do this for each word they are shown.



## Online support/ further information

- ▶ [Oxford Owl for School and Home](#)
- ▶ [Phonics Screening Test | Monster Phonics](#)
- ▶ [Online Phonics Games \(Phase 5\) - PhonicsBloom.com](#)
- ▶ [Phonics screening check: information for parents - GOV.UK](#)
- ▶ [Phoneme Patterns](#)
- ▶ [Five Minute Phonics](#)





# Support

If you need any further information to support your child at home, please speak to your class teacher or Assistant Head Teacher.

