



What is the Phonic Screening Check?

The phonics screening check is not a formal test, but a way for teachers to ensure that children are making sufficient progress with their phonics skills to read words and that they are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and for learning.

It is designed to give teachers and parents 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.

When will it take place?

Year 1 children usually take the phonics screening check in early June. However, due to school closures the check did not take place this year. Instead, schools are required to use a past version of the check with Year 2 pupils in **November or December 2020**.

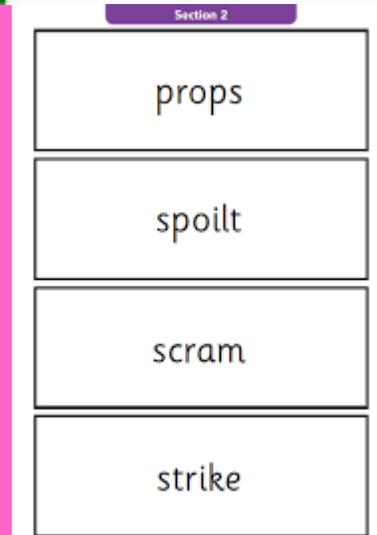
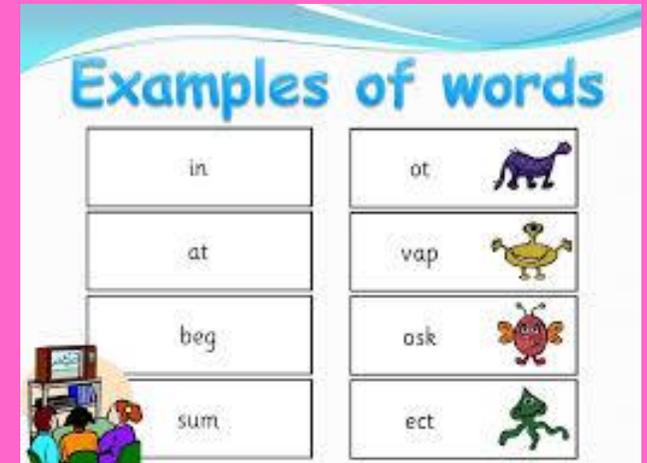
What is in the Phonic Screening Check?

The screening assesses phonics skills and knowledge learned through Reception and Year 1. There are two sections in this 40-word check.

The words in section 1 will have a variety of simple word structures e.g. *bin*, *tree*, *boat*.

The words in section 2 will have a variety of more complex word structures and two syllable words e.g. *crunch*, *starlight*

Your child will read up to four words per page and they will probably do the check in one sitting of about 5–10 minutes.



What does it check?

It checks that your child can:

Sound out and blend graphemes in order to read simple words.

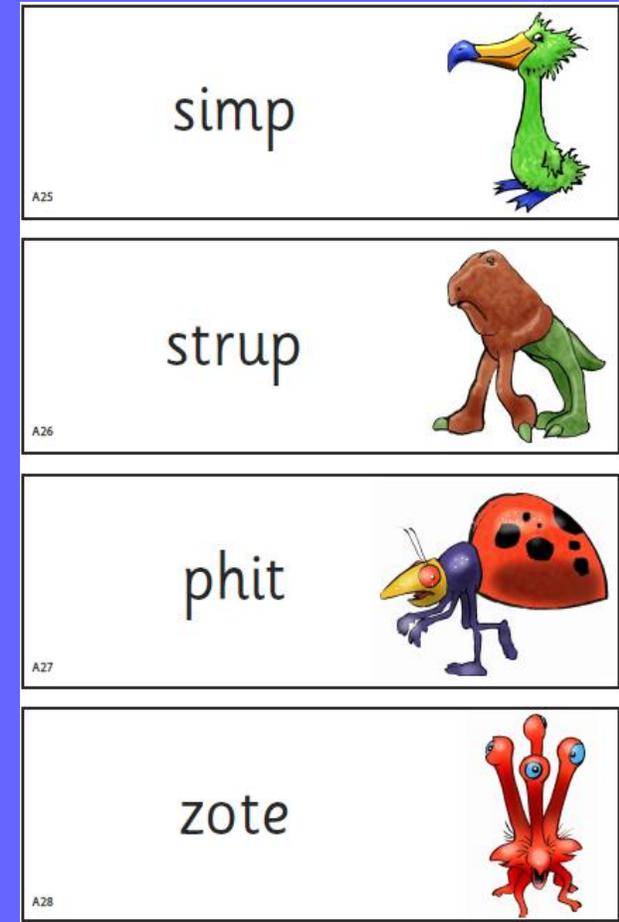
Read phonically decodable one-syllable and two-syllable words, e.g. cat, sand, windmill.

Read a selection of nonsense words which are referred to as pseudo words.

What are non-sense of pseudo words and why are they included?

These are words that are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning e.g. *brip*, *snorb*. Pseudo words are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using phonics skills and not their memory.

The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of a monster and they will be asked to tell their teacher what sort of monster it is by reading the word. This not only makes the check a bit more fun, but provides the children with a context for the nonsense word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have. Crucially, it does not provide any clues, so your child just has to be able to decode it. Children generally find nonsense amusing so they will probably enjoy reading these words.



How will my child be scored? Is there a pass mark?

The check is not about passing or failing but checking appropriate progress is being made. If children do not reach the required standard, then the teacher will be in touch to discuss plans and offer additional, tailored support to ensure that your child can catch up. Children progress at different speeds so not reaching the threshold score does not necessarily mean there is a serious problem. Your child will re-sit the check the **following summer term**.

For the last few years, the threshold mark (or pass standard) set by the government has been 32 correct answers out of 40.

What happens to the results

We will report your child's results to you by the end of the summer term as well as to the local authority, but the results won't be published in a league table as with SATs. If we have any concerns about your child's phonics progress we will obviously contact you sooner and let you know what has been put in place to help them.

What can I do to help my child?

To find out more about phonics and how to help your child look at the **Aboyne Lodge Guide for Parents PowerPoint**.

On the last two pages there are lots of useful link to websites that will help you and your child.

We hope this has been helpful, if you have any concerns please get in touch.