

Parent Meeting Phonics Screening Check

4th April 2019

Aim of this meeting

- ▶ To understand why we have a phonics screening check.
- ▶ To know how the phonics check is completed.
- ▶ To find out ways of supporting your child at home.

What is a phonics screening check?

- ▶ The national phonics screening check is a statutory assessment that was introduced in 2012 for all Year 1 pupils and is a quick and simple check of your child's phonics knowledge. It takes place in June each year.
- ▶ The phonics screening check will be taken individually and it is designed to show how well your child can use the phonics skills they've learned to decode words, and to identify children who need extra phonics help.

When is the check and does my child have to do it?

- ▶ All schools in England must take part in the phonics screening check.
- ▶ There is a process in place for reviewing children with special educational needs, so if your child's teacher thinks there are reasons related to your child and their needs that make them think the phonics screening check may not be appropriate, they will decide on appropriate action and discuss this with you.
- ▶ This year, the teacher will administer the check during the week beginning 10 June 2019.

What is in the phonics screening check?

- ▶ The checks consist of **40 words and non-words** that your child will be asked to read one-to-one with a teacher.
- ▶ The check normally takes between 5-10 minutes.
- ▶ It is not stressful for the child. The teacher administering the check with your child will give them a few practice words to read first - including some non-words - so they understand more about what they have to do.

How is the check structured?

- ▶ The 40 words and non-words are divided into two sections - one with simple word structures of three or four letters, for example:

shed

long

- ▶ and one with more complex word structures of five or six letters.

cloaks

scrap

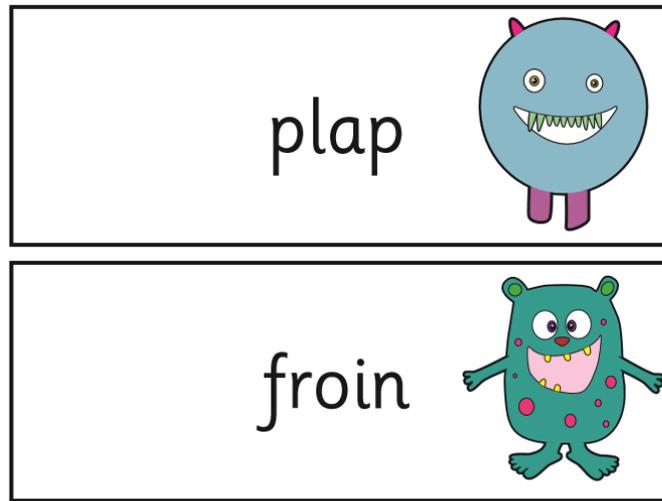
- ▶ Your child will read up to four words per page for their teacher.

What are non-words and why are they on the check?

- ▶ Non-words (or nonsense words) are a collection of letters that will follow phonics rules your child has been taught.
- ▶ These are words that are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning e.g. brip, snorb.
- ▶ They are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using phonics skills and not their memory.

Non-words

- ▶ These words will be shown to your child with a picture of a cartoon character.



- ▶ 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. Children generally find nonsense words amusing so they will probably enjoy reading these words.

Scoring the check

- ▶ Your child will be scored against a national standard.
- ▶ The teacher has a score sheet and will just tick if it was read correctly or not.

| Section 1 | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Word | Correct | Incorrect | Comment |
| fip | | | |
| pon | | | |
| hab | | | |
| ulb | | | |
| dack | | | |
| chob | | | |
| nurt | | | |
| queet | | | |
| plap | | | |
| froin | | | |
| melp | | | |
| heent | | | |
| shed | | | |
| long | | | |
| soil | | | |
| chart | | | |
| crab | | | |
| fresh | | | |
| wink | | | |
| shuts | | | |

| Section 2 | | | |
|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Word | Correct | Incorrect | Comment |
| yair | | | |
| blies | | | |
| keam | | | |
| whape | | | |
| braft | | | |
| thrant | | | |
| sprop | | | |
| strow | | | |
| law | | | |
| glued | | | |
| zoom | | | |
| rice | | | |
| grand | | | |
| cloaks | | | |
| scrap | | | |
| strike | | | |
| river | | | |
| diving | | | |
| beehive | | | |
| midnight | | | |

Total correct

- ▶ The national threshold mark is communicated to schools at the end of June, after the test has been taken.
- ▶ From 2013 to 2018 the 'pass threshold' mark was 32, which meant children had to read at least 32 words out of 40 correctly to be assessed as meeting age-related expectations in phonics.
- ▶ If your child's score falls below the standard, they will be given extra phonics support and can re-take the phonics screening check the following June when they are in Year 2.

What happens to the scores?

- ▶ You will get your child's results before the end of the academic year.
- ▶ The results are also sent to the local authority, but they are not published in a league table as with SATs.

How can I support my child at home?

- ▶ Practise the sounds your child has been learning in Reception and Year 1 - see complex sound chart provided and in your child's school planner.
- ▶ Write real and non-words with these sounds for your child to read.
- ▶ Encourage and praise - get them to have a 'good guess'.
- ▶ If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right.
- ▶ Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.

Useful Websites

To hear the different sounds

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-site/expert-help/phonics-made-easy>

Recaps what the phonic screening is

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/resources/parent-tutorial-phonics-screening-check/>