

Phonic screening check - 2024

Week commencing **Monday 10th June 2024**

All children in the country who are in Year 1 will take a simple phonic screening check during this week. Some children from Year 2 who did not meet the expected level in Year 1 will also take the check at the same time.

The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD IS IN SCHOOL FOR THE CHECK AS WE CANNOT COMPLETE THE CHECK AT A LATER DATE.

What is in the check ?

- 40 decodable words (words that can be sounded out and blended) separated into 2 sections.
- Mixture of alien / nonsense words (called pseudo words) and real words. The nonsense words have a picture of an alien next to them so the children know they are not real. These are included to check phonic knowledge as they will be new for all children meaning that children who have a good visual memory or a large vocabulary will not be at an advantage.
- The check is conducted 1 child at a time with a member of staff in a familiar setting. It usually takes about 10 minutes, but each child will do the check at their own pace so this can vary.

What does the check look like ?

Below are some example pages from a previous phonic screening check to show how the check will look to the children.

Section 1		Section 2	
Alien words Section 1	Real Words Section 1	Alien words Section 2	Real words Section 2
lig 	chin	jigh 	drank
mep 	deck	woats 	treats
gax 	horn	rird 	scram
emp 	queen	phope 	stroke

Please note each year a new check is created and is not seen by staff before it is administered. The check will contain a random selection of sounds learnt (but not all) and we don't know which ones or

which words will be contained. So it really is a check of their phonic knowledge.

What do we do with the results?

- Pass mark can change but has been 32/40 for the past few years. (We do not know the pass mark for that check until it has been completed by all schools).
- Those who do not reach the expected level given extra targeted support through our Reading Boost Programme.
- Opportunity to attend extra Phonics intervention group.
- Another chance to take the check next Summer 2025 (Year 2).

How to support your child

All of these activities will reinforce the skills we are teaching the children at school – if you need any further support please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher or Mrs Owen on the school phonic e mail phonics@westbourne.sutton.sch.uk

Learn the sounds	Children need to be able to recognise the sounds quickly and say them correctly	Go over the flashcards or play the sound recognition games on our website in the phonic games sections.
Recognise the sounds within words	Sometimes the children find it hard to see a digraph (2 letters making 1 sound such as 'oa' in boat.	Get them to point to the digraph and say it BEFORE sounding out. The word bank can help generate words for this.
Blending sounds to read words	This is a skill like riding a bike, the more you do it the easier it becomes.	Sound out a word and blend see our phonic page for more information. If your child is finding this tricky sound out more quickly so they can hear the word. The wordbank is great for word suggestions.
Splitting longer words	The same process of sounding out can be applied to longer words.	Split the word into 2 parts e.g. picnic – pic/nic sound out and blend the first part and the sound out and blend the second. You can now combine the 2 parts together.

The children are usually unaware they are taking the check and we like to keep it that way as it isn't something they should be worried about ! They usually find taking the check fun, spending time 1:1 with a teacher and looking at the funny alien pictures.

How will you find out the results ?

By the end of the summer term we report each child's results to their parents and confirm if they have met the standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level will have targeted support through our Reading Boost Programme and retake the test when they are in Year 2.