

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Information for parents and carers



What is phonics?

Phonics is the relationship between letters and sounds and is vital in learning to read. Some children struggle with learning to read, so it is important that these children are identified quickly. This way, teachers can plan for any specific support they may need.

What is the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check?

The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check is a short state-wide assessment that tells teachers how your child is progressing in phonics. This screening check observes how your child can read English words with different letter combinations. Your child will sit with a teacher and will be asked to read 40 words aloud. These words include 20 real words and 20 nonsense words. The purpose of the nonsense words is to see if the student can use their knowledge of blending to read a word rather than their memory of having seen that word before. The test normally takes 5-7 minutes. If your child is struggling the teacher will stop the check. The check is carefully designed not to be stressful for your child.

The main purpose of the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check is to provide your child's teacher with information which will allow them to plan for your child's learning. Each child is individually assessed by a teacher and all Year 1 students will be assessed.

Why is phonics important?

Phonic knowledge and skills are essential for learning to read and write in English. To be successful, students need to learn the sounds represented by individual letters or different letter combinations, and the skill of blending these sounds together to read words. Beginning readers need to learn how to blend sounds together in words quickly and fluently, so as not to disrupt the flow of reading and their comprehension of the text.

Please contact the school if you have any questions regarding the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check.

Telephone interpreter service

If you need interpreter assistance to contact the school, please call 131 450, tell the operator what language you need and ask them to phone the school. The operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.