

Parent Information about the Year 1 Phonic Check 2025

What is Phonics?

Children begin to learn phonics (sounds) in the Early Years. They then continue to learn phonics in Year 1 and Year 2.

We use the Read, Write Inc programme to teach children phonics which teaches sounds in a systematic order. Once the children can recognise the sounds, they blend sounds together and use this knowledge to read words. When children are learning to read, we use Fred the frog to help them to 'Fred Talk' which means 'sound out' the words.

We teach Set 1, Set 2, and Set 3 sounds in daily reading lessons and link these to the colour books children are reading.

Set 1 Speed Sound Map

<p>m</p> <p>Mountain, Marmite, Marmoset, Marmoset, Marmoset.</p>	<p>a</p> <p>Apple, Apple, Apple, Apple, Apple, Apple.</p>	<p>s</p> <p>Snake, Snake, Snake, Snake, Snake, Snake.</p>	<p>d</p> <p>Dinosaur, Dinosaur, Dinosaur, Dinosaur, Dinosaur, Dinosaur.</p>	<p>t</p> <p>Tower, Tower, Tower, Tower, Tower, Tower.</p>	<p>i</p> <p>Igloo, Igloo, Igloo, Igloo, Igloo, Igloo.</p>	
<p>n</p> <p>Net, Net, Net, Net, Net, Net.</p>	<p>p</p> <p>Pirate, Pirate, Pirate, Pirate, Pirate, Pirate.</p>	<p>g</p> <p>Giraffe, Giraffe, Giraffe, Giraffe, Giraffe, Giraffe.</p>	<p>o</p> <p>Orange, Orange, Orange, Orange, Orange, Orange.</p>	<p>c</p> <p>Crown, Crown, Crown, Crown, Crown, Crown.</p>	<p>k</p> <p>Kangaroo, Kangaroo, Kangaroo, Kangaroo, Kangaroo, Kangaroo.</p>	
<p>u</p> <p>Umbrella, Umbrella, Umbrella, Umbrella, Umbrella, Umbrella.</p>	<p>b</p> <p>Beak, Beak, Beak, Beak, Beak, Beak.</p>	<p>f</p> <p>Fence, Fence, Fence, Fence, Fence, Fence.</p>	<p>e</p> <p>Egg, Egg, Egg, Egg, Egg, Egg.</p>	<p>l</p> <p>Leg, Leg, Leg, Leg, Leg, Leg.</p>	<p>h</p> <p>Horse, Horse, Horse, Horse, Horse, Horse.</p>	
<p>sh</p> <p>Sheep, Sheep, Sheep, Sheep, Sheep, Sheep.</p>	<p>r</p> <p>Rabbit, Rabbit, Rabbit, Rabbit, Rabbit, Rabbit.</p>	<p>j</p> <p>Jelly, Jelly, Jelly, Jelly, Jelly, Jelly.</p>	<p>v</p> <p>Vulture, Vulture, Vulture, Vulture, Vulture, Vulture.</p>	<p>y</p> <p>Yak, Yak, Yak, Yak, Yak, Yak.</p>	<p>w</p> <p>Wheel, Wheel, Wheel, Wheel, Wheel, Wheel.</p>	
<p>th</p> <p>Thorn, Thorn, Thorn, Thorn, Thorn, Thorn.</p>	<p>z</p> <p>Zebra, Zebra, Zebra, Zebra, Zebra, Zebra.</p>	<p>ch</p> <p>Chicken, Chicken, Chicken, Chicken, Chicken, Chicken.</p>	<p>qu</p> <p>Quail, Quail, Quail, Quail, Quail, Quail.</p>	<p>x</p> <p>Xylophone, Xylophone, Xylophone, Xylophone, Xylophone, Xylophone.</p>	<p>ng</p> <p>String, String, String, String, String, String.</p>	<p>nk</p> <p>Nest, Nest, Nest, Nest, Nest, Nest.</p>

Set 2 Speed Sound Map

<p>ay</p> <p>may I play?</p>	<p>ee</p> <p>what can you see?</p>	<p>igh</p> <p>fly high</p>	<p>ow</p> <p>blow the snow</p>
<p>oo</p> <p>poo at the zoo</p>	<p>oo</p> <p>look at a book</p>	<p>ar</p> <p>start the car</p>	<p>or</p> <p>shut the door</p>
<p>air</p> <p>that's not fair</p>	<p>ir</p> <p>whirl and twirl</p>	<p>ou</p> <p>shout it out</p>	<p>oy</p> <p>toy to enjoy</p>

Ms CM EKsteen

Set 3 Speed Sound Map

<p>ea</p> <p>cup of tea</p>	<p>oi</p> <p>spoil the boy</p>	<p>a-e</p> <p>make a cake</p>	<p>i-e</p> <p>nice smile</p>	<p>o-e</p> <p>phone home</p>	<p>u-e</p> <p>huge brute</p>
<p>aw</p> <p>yawn at dawn</p>	<p>are</p> <p>care and share</p>	<p>ur</p> <p>nurse with a purse</p>	<p>er</p> <p>a better letter</p>	<p>ow</p> <p>blow the snow</p>	<p>ai</p> <p>snail in the rain</p>
<p>oa</p> <p>goat in a boat</p>	<p>ew</p> <p>chew the stew</p>	<p>ire</p> <p>fire, fire!</p>	<p>ear</p> <p>hear with your ear</p>	<p>ure</p> <p>sure it's pure?</p>	<p>ue</p> <p>come to the rescue!</p>

In Year 1 all children will have a daily reading group lesson teaching them the exact sounds they need to know to make progress and read their colour books fluently. We are also teaching all children in Year 1 the Set 3 sounds during an extra reading lesson in class. We use the Read, Write Inc books, flashcards and videos to support the children's learning in school.

We will send home videos of sounds we would like you to practise with your child and put these links on the Class Dojo Page.

Here is an example of a link you can paste into a browser:

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/mf3blYWm/n6fvcZaw>

What is the Phonic Screening Check?

All children in Year 1, in England will take part in a statutory Phonics Screening Check during the week starting the 9th June 2025.

The Phonics Screening Check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt sufficient phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard. It does not measure reading fluency or comprehension; it is purely about applying sounds at a word level and gives one indicator for a child's reading level.

Alongside the Phonic Check, school will continue to assess your child's reading comprehension, fluency and knowledge of books and stories.

The check contains 40 words in two sections which the children read aloud to a teacher.

It usually takes around 5 – 10 minutes to complete but there is no time limit.



The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words).

Why use Nonsense Words?

Nonsense words, or alien words as we often call them, are included because they will be new to all pupils. They do not favour children with a good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words. It is purely to assess their ability to phonetically decode.

The nonsense words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This provides the children with a context for the word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have.

Examples of Real Words and Nonsense Words

moat	stip 
shape	prool 
hair	darps 
crate	thand 

Section 1			
Word	Correct	Incorrect	Comment
fot			
keb			
gan			
ulp			
poth			
shan			
veen			
quorg			
drap			
flarm			

Expected Standard

The pass mark in previous years has been 32/ 40 and is unlikely to change.

If children have not learnt sufficient phonic decoding and blending skills to read 32 words accurately then we will continue to teach phonics in Year 2 and the children will re take the check in June 2026, when they are in Year 2.

We will report pupils' results to parents in their annual reports.

How are we preparing children for the Assessment?

All children in Year 1 have had a 'mock' phonic check so they know what it is. This also gave us an indication of how well they are decoding words.

We have a daily reading lesson which helps the children practice reading real and 'nonsense' words and all children in Year 1 are having a short extra lesson to develop their familiarity with Set 3 sounds in words.

How can I help my child?

- ✓ Please continue to read stories to your children (children will bring home a book they have chosen from the book box every week) This is for you to read to your child.
- ✓ Please continue to read the reading book (the colour Read, Write in Book) that your child will have already read in school. This is for your child to read to you.

As well as this, we would like children to practise reading sounds from Sets 2 and Set 3.

- ✓ Your child will be given a *My Set 2 and My Set 3 Speed Sounds Learning Work Book* to help practise reading sounds and words at home.

Encourage children to 'Fred talk' and read the words. When they successfully decode words in the work book, they can colour the words in.

Please support your child to spend 5 – 10 minutes several times a week completing these books using 'Fred Talk, Read the word'.

If completed books are sent back to school children will receive a prize.

- ✓ Watch the lesson videos we send home for Set 2 and Set 3 sounds on dojo.
- ✓ Access free online games

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

www.phonicsbloom.com

Please do get in touch if you need any further information or advice.

Thank you for your support!

Mrs Alex Rose

Early Reading Leader