



Y1 PHONICS SCREENING PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

WHAT IS PHONICS?

- Phonics teaches children how to **match sounds to letters**.
- It helps children **decode words** when reading.
- Children use phonics every time they read a new or unfamiliar word, this supports with building fluency and eventually word recognition.



s



t



p



n



m



d



g



c



r



h

WHAT IS THE PHONICS CHECK?

- A short, **one-to-one reading check** with the class teacher - a familiar face and done in an informal way.
- This will take around **5–10 minutes**.
- The phonics check is designed to assess whether children can **blend sounds** to read words and check knowledge and understanding. This ensures children can read at the appropriate level.

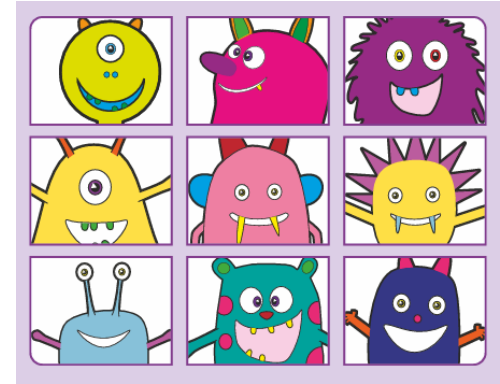
WHEN DOES IT HAPPEN?

- The check takes place in **June** each year and all Year 1 children across the country complete it.
- If a child doesn't meet the threshold, this is no problem at all, they will repeat phonics in Year 2 and then retake the assessment at the end of **Year 2**.



WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?

- **40 words** in total:
- **20 real words**
- **20 “alien” or nonsense words** (e.g., *splog*, *voosh*)
- Alien words help check that children are using **phonics skills** to decode words rather than memorise.



quiz

WHAT ARE ALIEN WORDS?

- Alien words are marked with a **monster or alien picture**, these are words that are not real words.
- These are designed to check **pure decoding**.
- Children are told: “These are pretend words/not real. Use your sounds to sound them out.”

hib



HOW IS IT SCORED?

- Each word read correctly = 1 point.
- The pass mark is typically **32 out of 40** (released after the check).
- You will receive your child's result in the end-of-year report.

HOW WE PREPARE IN SCHOOL

- We have daily phonics lessons.
- Lots of practicing blending and segmenting.
- Reading books matched to your child's phonics level.
- Small-group support for children who need extra practice.



HOW YOU CAN HELP AT HOME

- Listen to your child **read regularly** (3x a week).
- Encourage them to **sound out and blend** unfamiliar words.
- Play phonics games (magnetic letters, flashcards, online games).
- Practice with alien words in a fun, playful way.