



Phonics Screening Check

6th May 2026

This term we are preparing for the Phonics Screening Check







What is the Phonics Screening Check?

- It is a quick check of your child's phonics knowledge.
- It is not designed to create any stress or anxiety for your child.
- It assesses decoding skills using phonics.
- It consists of 40 words (20 real words, 20 'alien words').

If children do not achieve the required score in Year 1, they will retake the screening at the end of Year 2.

Section 1

sut	
yad	
dop	
uct	

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Section 1

shop
yell
peel
check

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How does the check work?

- Your child will sit with a member of staff that they know.
- They will be asked to read 40 words aloud.
- This takes just a few minutes to complete, but there is no time limit.
- If your child is struggling, the teacher will stop.
- It has been carefully designed not to be stressful for your child.

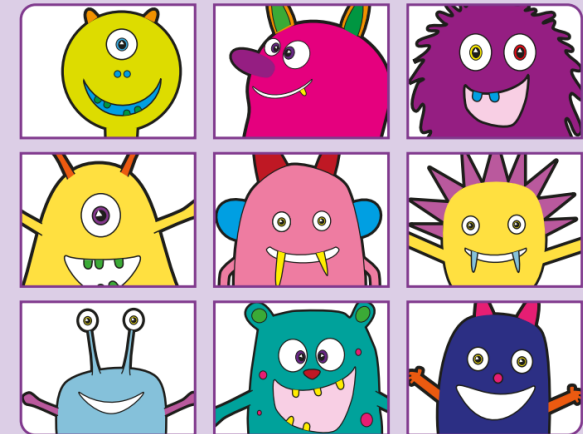


2023 national curriculum assessments

Key stage 1

Phonics screening check

Pupils' materials

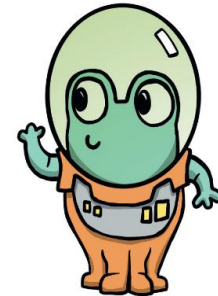


What are 'alien words'?



Why we teach alien words
for Phonics Screening Check

tabe



Yr1 Su1 wk1

A quick guide to alien words

'Alien words' recap



- **The check will contain 20 'alien words'.**
- **The children will be familiar with alien words and will start to read them this term.**
- **Alien words assess children's decoding skills and are used in lessons for the purpose of preparing for the Phonics Screening Check only.**
- **Children cannot read these words by using their memory or known vocabulary, so they have to use their decoding skills. This is a fair way to assess their ability to decode.**
- **The Phonics Screening Check will be administered w/c June 8th**

How will the results be used?

Schools will have access to all their pupils' results to identify those who need additional support and make plans to help them improve.

The Department for Education does not publish school-level results for the phonics screening check, but schools will have access to national, regional and local authority results to allow them to benchmark their pupils' performance.



Will I find out my child's results?

- **Your child's teacher will share your child's score with you in the second half of the summer term (sent home alongside end of year report)**
- **If your child has found it difficult, we can tell you what support has and will put in place to help your child improve.**
- **Children who have not met the standard in year 1 will re-take the phonics screening check in year 2. The results of any re-take will also be shared with you.**

