



St Michael's

CofE Primary Academy

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30th April 2025

Information on the phonics screening check for Year 1 Children – June 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Year 1 phonics screening check is a statutory assessment that all schools must administer. The phonics screening check is taken individually by all children in Year 1 in June. It is designed to give teachers and parents information on how your child is progressing in phonics.

What is in the Phonics Screening Check?

The phonics screening check consists of 40 words that assess phonics skills and knowledge learned throughout Reception and Year 1. There is a combination of 20 real words and 20 'pseudo-words' (nonsense words/'alien' words). We will administer the check on a 1:1 basis with each child. There is no time limit but children normally complete the check in one sitting (around 5-10 minutes). It is not a stressful situation: We will be well-equipped to listen and understand your child's level of skills. There will be a few practice words first to make sure your child understands the activity and feels comfortable.

What are nonsense/pseudo words and why are they included?

These are words that are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning e.g. brip, snorb. Pseudo words are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using phonics skills and not their word memory. Crucially, it does not provide any clues, so your child just has to be able to decode these words.

Is there a pass mark?

Since first introducing the phonics screening check, the government has set the 'pass rate' at around 32 correct words (out of 40). If children do not reach the required standard, then we will offer additional, tailored support to ensure that your child can catch up over the course of their time in Year 2. Children progress at different speeds so not reaching the threshold score does not necessarily mean there is a serious problem.

How can you support your child at home?

We will be completing the phonics screening in June so it is important that over the next few weeks you:

- Recap the phonics sounds that the children have been learning.
- Provide lots of opportunities for children to practise blending and segmenting sounds through reading books or flash cards.
- Make use of any personalised resources that may be sent home to target the sounds that your child needs to focus on. If your child is struggling to decode a word, it is important to help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right. Blend the sounds by pointing to each one, e.g. /c/ in cat, /p/ in pat, /ng/ in sing, /ee/ in been. Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.

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What happens to the results?

We will report your child's results in the Summer term end of year report. We will use this information to help inform our teaching and support children to continue to develop their phonics skills for reading and writing. Children will have either have met the expected standard or not met the expected standard in which case they will have the opportunity to retake in Year 2 in June 2024.

If you have any queries regarding the phonics screening check, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "E. Morton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Teaching and Learning Lead