

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check 2015

The Year 1 Phonics Screening check will take place in June. The checks consist of 40 words and non-words that your child will be asked to read one-on-one with a teacher. Non-words (or nonsense words, or pseudo words) are a collection of letters that will follow phonics rules your child has been taught, but don't mean anything – your child will need to read these with the correct sounds to show that they understand the phonics rules behind them.

The 40 words and non-words are divided into two sections – one with simple word structures of three or four letters, and one with more complex word structures of five or six letters. We will give the children a few practice words to read first – including some non-words – so they understand more about what they have to do. Each of the non-words is presented with a picture of a monster / alien, as if the words were their name (and so your child doesn't think the word is a mistake because it doesn't make sense!).

We have prepared some information that may help you to support your child's learning.

Next Steps

Many of the words on the screening check are used to check the knowledge of digraphs (two letter sounds, e.g. ch, or, oi) therefore it is important to be familiar with all of these sounds.

ch	ck	ng	sh	th
church	clock	sing	fish	path
couch	quack	long	brush	teeth
peach	back	ring	wish	booth
pitch	pack	lung	wash	bath
punch	sock	song	dish	mouth

Above are examples of digraphs – Below is the list of digraphs that the children will learn in each phase of letters and sounds.

y	z/zz	qu		
---	------	----	--	--

Read / Write

ch	sh	th	ng	
ai	ee	igh	oa	oo
ar	or	ur	oi	ear
air	ure	er	ow (cow)	

Phase 5

(i)	wh	ph				
(ii)	Split digraph 'e'					
(iii)	ay	ea	ie	oe	ew	ue
(iv)	au	aw	ou	oy	ir	ey

These are two letter sounds that are made up of consonants. They are usually found at the beginning or end of a word.

For example: wh, tr, st, br,

Magic 'e' – (Split Digraph)

In Phase 5 the children are taught that the letter 'e' on the end of a word can be 'magic'. The presence of the 'e' at the end allows the middle vowel sound to change. For example, the word 'rope' may sound like 'rop' until the 'e' is added at the end. This is called a split digraph.

For example

rope	woke
vote	hope
home	stone
froze	slope

Other split digraphs include:

i-e – Kite
u-e – Cute
a-e – Late

Chunking –

It is important to use all the knowledge gained so far when attempting to read a word. For example a word must be chunked together in to manageable bits before it can be read.

groiks

gr – a consonant blend

oi – a vowel digraph

k – initial letter sound

s- initial letter sound

put it all together.. groiks!

Without knowing all these components you are unable to read the word.

Here is an example of some of the types of nonsense words that may be on the test.

