

# Phonics Screening Check

8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> June 2026



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# What is the Phonics Screening Check and why do we have to do it?

- ▶ It is a mid-point check on your child's progress in Phonics and will help us to shape their Phonics' lessons in Year 2.
- ▶ The aim of the check is to ensure that all pupils can read by the end of Year 2.
- ▶ Every Year 1 child in the country will be taking the check at the same time.
- ▶ It is a statutory assessment in Year 1. If they don't get over the pass mark in year 1, they can try again in Year 2.

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# When does it take place?

- ▶ The week of 8th June 2026.
- ▶ It will be completed 1-2-1 with Mrs Sullivan in a quiet space in the school.
- ▶ If a child is absent, we have until Friday 19th June to complete their check.



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# How do the children “pass” the Phonics Screening Check?

- ▶ The children will need to read 40 words. 20 words are real words and 20 are “alien” words.
- ▶ The words all contain phonemes from the “old” phases 2-5, which the children have learnt throughout Reception and Year 1.
- ▶ The pass mark is set after the screening has taken place. It has historically always been 32 words, but there is a chance that this could be changed.



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# What will the children have to do?

- ▶ Children will be asked to ‘sound out’ a word and blend the sounds together.eg d-o-g - dog
- ▶ The focus of the check is to see which sounds the children know and therefore the children will be asked to read made up ‘alien’ words. Your child will be told before the check that there will be “alien” words that he or she has not seen before. We use “alien” words when we teach phonics, so your child should be familiar with the concept. “Alien” words are important because ‘words’ such as ‘vap’ or ‘jound’ are new to all children . Children cannot read the “alien” words by using their memory or vocabulary, they have to use their decoding skills. This is a fair way to assess their ability to decode.
- ▶ THIS IS NOT A READING TEST



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# What skills do the children need to meet the standard of the Phonics Screening Check?



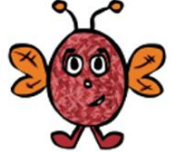

- ▶ All children need to be able to identify sounds associated with different letters, and letter combinations, and then blend these sounds together to correctly say the word on the page. The same skill is needed whether the word is a real word or a non-word. The words gradually get harder through the check as the combinations of letters become more complicated. Children will also need to recognise 'alternative' sounds in real words, such as 'y' in the word happy having the pronunciation 'e'.



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# Examples of words

in
at
beg
sum

ot	
vap	
osk	
ect	

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# Will the children be prepared for the check?

- ▶ The children are very familiar with the structure of the check as they have already completed 2 “mock” checks, in January and March.
- ▶ We use the results of the “mock” checks to help to structure the “review” part of our Phonics lessons. We look for phonemes that are regularly being read incorrectly and spend time re-teaching them using flashcards.
- ▶ The check will be fairly informal and the children are used to sitting 1-2-1 with Mrs Sullivan to do it.



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# How can you help?

Encourage your child to 'sound out' when reading or writing. Focusing particularly on spotting more unusual sound patterns.

Eg

Digraph- 2 letters making one sound

cow

Trigraphs- 3 letters making one sound

night

Split digraphs- 2 vowels with a consonant inbetween.

spine - i\_e

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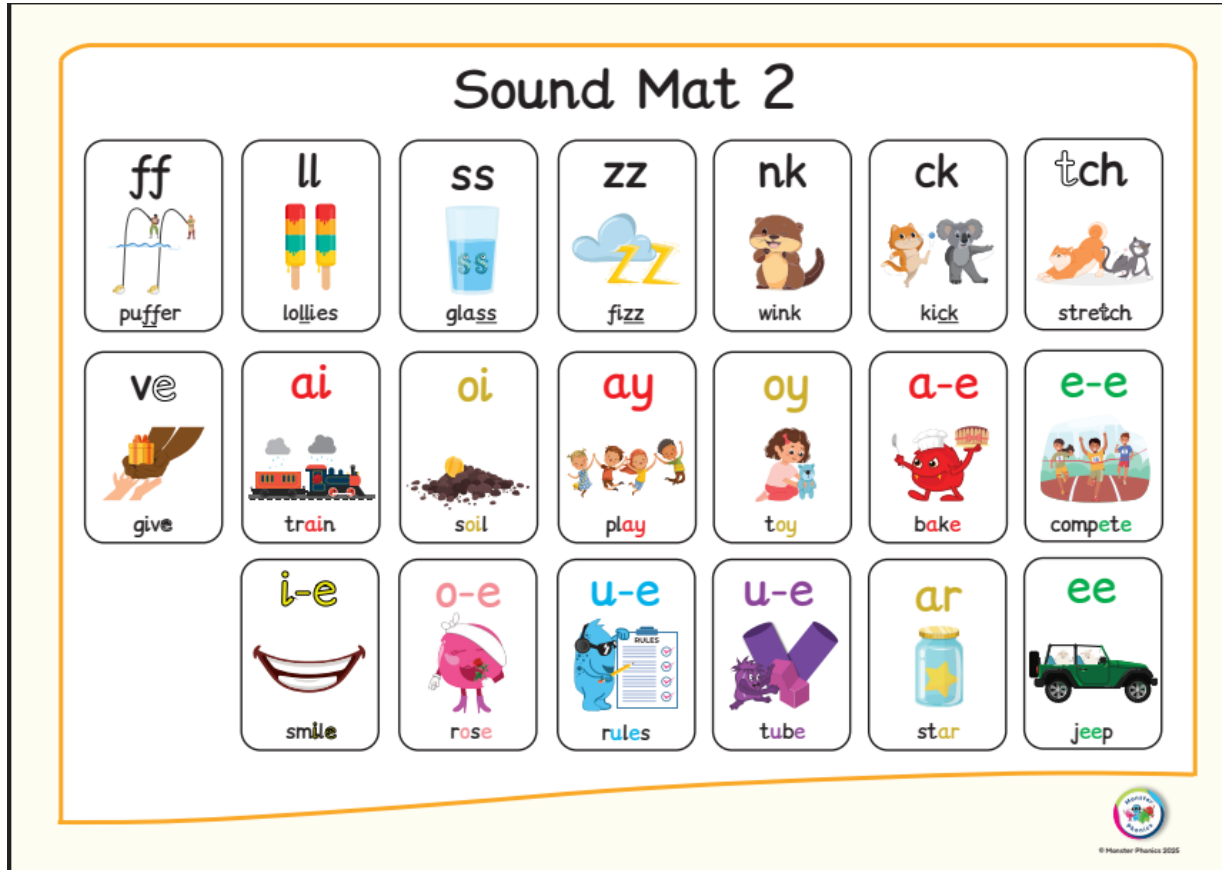
# How can you help?

- ▶ Keep reading the Monster Phonics books and encourage your child to look carefully at the colour-coded phonemes.
- ▶ Read other books where the words are not colour-coded and encourage your child to look for the phonemes in words.
- ▶ Look at the Year 1 sound mat and put sounds together to make alien words and ask your child to try sounding out and blending each word you make.
- ▶ Encourage your child to enjoy reading!



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# Resources - Monster Phonics



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# Have a try at home:

- ▶ <https://ebooks.monsterphonics.com/phonics-screening-test/>



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# Questions



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