



Phonics Screening Results

The Phonics Screening Check is a test for children in Year 1. Children take it during June in a one-to-one setting with a teacher. This is usually their class teacher, but it could also be the headteacher or another teacher who knows the child well.

Whilst children learn phonics to help them with both word reading and spelling, the Phonics Screening Check only tests their skills at word reading. This is known as **decoding**.

During the Phonics Screening Check, children are asked to read (decode) 40 words. Most of these words are real words but some are pseudo-words. Pseudo-words are included to ensure that children are using their decoding skills and not just relying on their memory of words they've read before. Because some children may misread these pseudo-words based on their similarity to words in their existing vocabulary, each pseudo-word is clearly identified with an image of an alien. Most teachers and children, therefore, refer to pseudo-words as alien words.

The test itself is divided into two sections. Section 1 is the easier part. In this section, children are asked to recognise simple word structures and **Grapheme Phoneme Correspondences (GPCs)** from the earlier phases of the phonics curriculum. In 2019, real words included in Section 1 were words like 'shop', 'peel' and 'yell'.

Section 2 is the trickier part of the test. Here, children need to recognise GPCs from the later stages of the phonics curriculum. They also encounter **graphemes** that correspond to more than one **phoneme** (e.g. the grapheme 'ea' represents different phonemes in the words bread and bead.)

There is no time limit for the Phonics Screening Check, but it usually takes less than 10 minutes.

Here at Thurston Ce Primary Academy, our phonics sessions allow further opportunities for both reading and writing. All phonics in EYFS and KS1 is taught following the Systematic Synthetic Phonics scheme, Little Wandle Revised Letters and Sounds. This provides guidance and structure for the delivery of high quality phonics sessions.

Phonics is taught daily for 30 minutes to include 10 minutes reading of fully decodable texts matched to the phase.

You will never have this day again so, with the guidance of God, make it count!



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Children will progress through Phase 1-4 within the Early Years Foundation Stage. In Year 1 children will consolidate phase 4 and complete phase 5 in order for them to be able to choose the appropriate graphemes to represent phonemes and begin to build word-specific knowledge of the spellings of words. Within Year 2 children will progress through the final stage, stage 6, through the No Nonsense Spelling Scheme. This progression will ensure that children become fluent readers and increasingly accurate spellers. Children with additional needs will be supported by phonics keep up sessions, pre and post teaching and other relevant strategies e.g precision teaching, toe by toe, dancing bears, flash cards etc

If a child doesn't meet the expected standard in Year 1, pupils continue to receive the phonics teaching and support they need and then retake the Phonics Screening Check the following year.

Due to the Pandemic, the Phonics Screening Test this year was taken in October by Year 2 pupils. We are pleased to report that **89%** of the pupils achieved the expected standard.

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