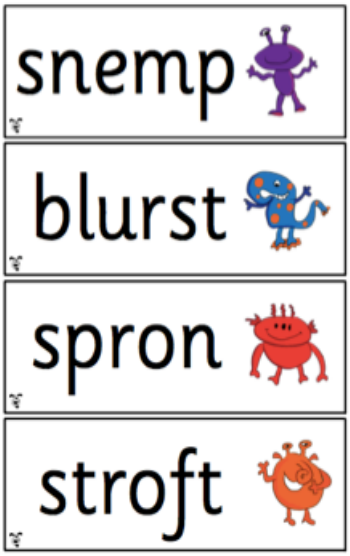
Phonics screening check – a guide for parents

What is the phonics screening check?

Children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the same week in June. Children in Year 2 will also take the check, if they did not achieve the required result when in Year 1 or they have not taken the test before.
The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.



What happens during the screening?

The test contains 40 words. Each child will sit one- to-one and read each word aloud to a teacher. The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child, although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace. The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words).

How can I help my child at home?

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise – get them to have a 'good guess'.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, 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.

Reporting to Parents

By the end of the summer term your child's phonics screening results will be reported along with their annual report. This report will confirm if the child has met the standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in Year 2.

WHAT IS PHONICS?

Children begin to learn phonics (sounds) in Early Years (Nursery and Reception). These sounds are used orally to identify and make words. They then begin to learn the letters, which make each of the sounds and these are used to read and spell words.
For this reason, the first initial sounds that are taught are **'s', 'a', 't', 'p', 'i', 'n'.** These can immediately be blended for reading to make simple CVC words (consonant, vowel, consonant) e.g. sat, pin. Children then develop segmenting for writing skills; breaking the word into sounds **(s-a-t)** to spell it out.

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Phonics at Sunnyfields is taught using the 'Essential Letters and sounds' programme. It follows a structured programme of discreet phonics teaching.

PHASE 1

- tuning in to sounds
- listening to and remembering sounds
- talking about sounds (being aware that words are made of sounds and letters)
- orally sounding out words to identify and spell them
- hearing words that start and end with the same sounds

PHASE 2

Children begin to learn the sounds that corresponds the letters

- Set 1: s, a, t, p,
- Set 2: i, n, m, d
- Set 3: g, o, c, k
- Set 4: ck, e, u, r

Set 5: h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss

PHASE 3

- Set 6: j, v, w, x
- Set 7: y, z, zz, qu, ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er

PHASE 4

No new graphemes

Practising all the graphemes and blending them together to make words

This phase includes learning to read and spell longer words

PHASE 5

New graphemes

ay, ow, ie, ea, oy, ir, ue, aw, wh, ph, ew, oe, au,

Split digraphs

a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e

New pronunciations for known letters:

i(find), o(hot, cold), c(cat, cent), g(giant, got), u(but, put), ow (cow, blow), ie (ie, field), ea(eat, bread), er(farmer, her), a(hat, what), y (yes, by, very), ch (chin, school, chef), ou (out, shoulder, could, you)

Important links and resources to support your child with their Phonics

These are very popular websites that we use in class. Some games are free, while others require a yearly subscription. The children enjoy the games and are very familiar with its content.

https://www.phonicsbloom.com/

https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/

https://www.teachyourmonster.org/

Practical Phonics games

Robotic talking

Robot talk words when playing. Children enjoy blending sounds together to make words. Begins with simple CVC words (eg cat, pig, bat) and move on to words with more sounds.
Eg Sit d-ow-n.
Go brush your t-ee-th.

I spy

Begin by saying the rhyme 'I spy with my little eye something beginning with _____'.
Allow your child plenty of opportunities to guess the word that you have chosen.
Eg I spy with my little eye something beginning with 't' (tree, tent, train etc)

Looking for letters

Ask your child to look for English letters whilst you are out and about.
Eg Can they find letters from their own name? Letters they have learnt in school? Which sounds do they recognise on signs? Which sounds do specific words begin with? Eg

Letter sound bingo

You need a 3x3 grid for each player, counter or coins.
Write some of the letters/sounds in the spaces on each card, making each card different. The bingo caller says each letter in turn and the players covers the letter with a counter or coin. The first person to cover all sounds is the winner.

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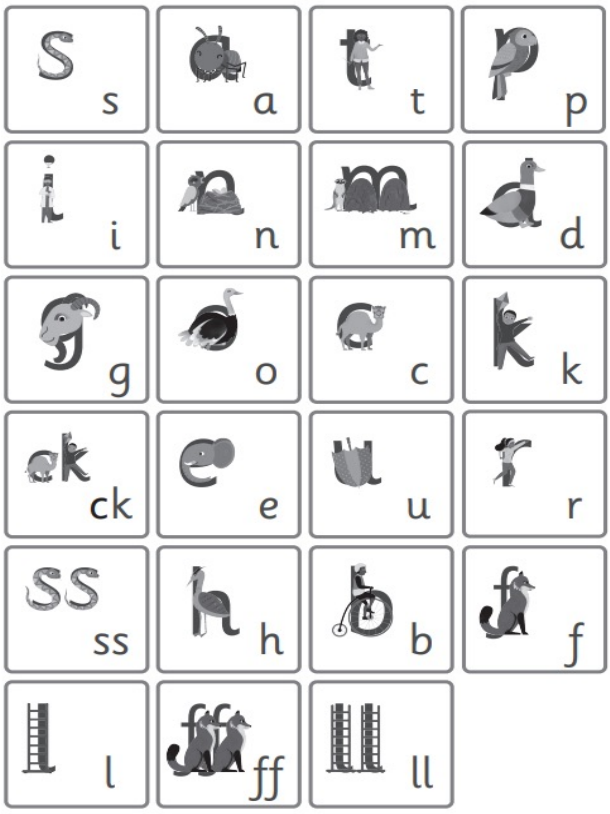
ELS sound mat

PHASE 2

Phonemes



Harder to read and spell words

a	off	the
an	on	I
as	can	him
at	but	his
if	go	not
in	dad	got
into	had	up
no	back	mum
is	and	to
it	get	has
of	big	

PHASE 3

Phonemes

Harder to read and spell words

will	for	they
that	now	you
this	down	we
then	look	all
them	too	me
with	be	are
was	my	push
her	he	full
see	she	pull

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PHASE 4

Harder to read and spell words

went	what	when
it's	said	one
from	have	little
children	like	there
just	so	come
help	do	ask
out	some	were

PHASE 5

Phonemes

ay	ou	ie	ea
oy	ir	ue	aw
wh	ph	ew	oe
au	ey	a-e	e-e
i-e	o-e	u-e	c

Harder to read and spell words

don't	came	Mr
old	make	Mrs
I'm	asked	looked
by	here	says
time	saw	love
house	very	school
could	put	where
about	oh	our
your	their	today
day	called	friend
made	people	once