



## Phonics screening check

The Government require all Year 1 pupils across the country to undertake a phonics screening check. The Government describe the test as,

“... a short, light-touch assessment to confirm whether individual pupils have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard.

It will identify the children who need extra help so they are given support by their school to improve their reading skills. They will then be able to retake the check so that schools can track pupils until they are able to decode.”

Each child has a short 1-1 session of about 10 minutes with their class teacher, who administers the questions.

Each child has an opportunity to practice some decoding before the main questions. They are shown a set of 4 real words and 4 pseudo-words. These are not assessed.

The main questions comprise of a list of 40 words – 20 real words and 20 pseudo-words which the children are required to decode and read. The pseudo-words are depicted by a picture of an alien to demonstrate they are not real words. The list of words covers phonic skills that they will have been taught in Reception and Year 1.

The words are presented in groups of four in the following format.

Real words

shin

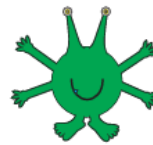
fang

sort

chill

Pseudo-words

nop



yim



zeg



ild



A threshold is set to determine whether a child has passed the check or not. This has been 32 since the check was introduced but could change each year. Any child who does not pass the check in Year 1 will have to re-sit the check again in Year 2.

**Please note...**

Phonics is an important element in learning to read and it has always been an integral part of our teaching of reading. However, decoding of words does not, in itself, make a good, lifelong reader. It must run alongside a developing comprehension of text in order to produce children who read with confidence, understanding and enjoyment.

Passing the check indicates a child will have success in reading as they progress through school. If a child has not yet passed the check, they may need more support and intervention to enable them to develop their decoding skills more. There may also be specific reasons a child has not yet passed e.g. new to learn English or have a specific additional need.