



*Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
Parents Information Session*

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

- The phonics screening check is a short, light-touch assessment to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard.
- The checks consist of 40 words and non-words that your child will be asked to read one-on-one with a teacher.
- 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 children until they are able to decode.

Who is it for?

The screening check is for all Year 1 pupils and children in Year 2 who previously did not meet the standard of the check in Year 1.

Is it compulsory?

Yes. It is a statutory requirement for all schools to carry out the screening check.

Do children with Special Education Needs have to take the screening check?

- It should be taken by as many children as possible, and the Government have worked closely with SEND specialists to make this happen.
- Where necessary, adjustments will be made and appropriate guidance provided.
- For children who are working well below the level of the screening check (for example, if they have shown no understanding of letter-sound correspondences), there will be a disapplication process so they do not have to take part.
- Parents will be informed if a child is disapplied.

When does it happen?

- Schools will be able to administer the phonics screening check within the 1-week period from Monday 9th June 2025.
- If a child is absent during that week, the school can administer the check up until the 20th June.

Who carries out the screening check?

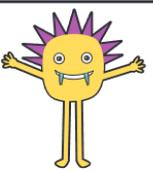
- A teacher who is known to the child will carry out the test (likely either Mrs Colfer/Mrs Schooling).
- Administering the phonics check requires a teacher's professional judgement.

How long does the check take?

- Every child is different, but most children take between four and nine minutes to complete the assessment.

How is the check structured?

- It will be a short, simple screening check to make sure that all children have grasped fundamental phonic skills.
- It comprises a list of 40 words and non-words, which a child will read one-to-one with a teacher.
- Half of the words cover phonic skills which tend to be covered in Reception, and half of the words are based on Year 1 phonic skills.

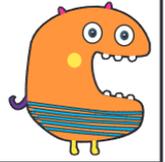
Section 2	Section 2
plank	bew 
shrimp	clune 
split	baup 
stripe	cheve 

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What are 'non-words?'

- 'Non-words', 'Pseudo-words' or 'Alien words' are words that are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning.
- They are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using their phonics skills.
- All pseudo-words in the check are accompanied by a picture of an imaginary creature (aliens).
- Children are taught that when a word has a creature next to it, it is a pseudo-word. This ensures that they are not trying to match the pseudo-word to a word in their vocabulary.

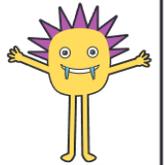
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clune



baup



cheve



What is the pass mark?

- The threshold in 2024 was 32 words out of 40.
- The pass mark for 2025 is unknown to teachers and will be revealed after the screening check in June.
- However, it hasn't changed since its introduction in 2012.

How will the results be used?

- Schools will have access to all their pupils' results to identify those who need additional support and make plans to help them improve.
- The Department for Education does not publish school-level results for the phonics screening check, but schools will have access to national, regional and local authority results to allow them to benchmark their pupils' performance.

Will I receive feedback on my child's results?

- Your child's score will be shared with you in your child's end of year report.
- Children who have not met the standard in year 1 will re-take the phonics screening check in year 2. The results of any re-take will also be shared with you.

Year 1 English
Phonics Buster



Essential test practice for the
Phonics Screening Check

How can I help my child at home?

- Make learning sounds fun! Phonics works best when children are given plenty of encouragement and learn to enjoy reading and books.
- You play a very important part in helping with this. You can highlight the phonics sounds when you read with your child.
- Access Google Classroom for Phonics sheets
- Use your CPG book
- Practice the sounds with your child.
- Initial sounds, digraphs and trigraphs.

My Phase 2 Sound Mat

s socks	a apple	t tomato	p parcel	i ink	n nose	m mouse	d dinosaur
g goat	o orange	c carrot	k key	ck rocket	e elephant	u umbrella	r rocket
h hand	b bird	f flower	ff muffin	l leaf	ll shell	ss grass	

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My Phase 3 Sound Mat

j jelly	v volcano	w watch	x fox	y yo-yo	z zebra	zz fizzy	qu queen
ch chicken	sh shoe	th thumb	ng ring	ai rain	ee leek	igh night	oa goat
oo moon	oo book	ar cards	or fork	ur burger	ow cow	oi coin	ear beard
air chair	ure pure	er rubber					

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My Phase 5 Sound Mat

ay crayon	ou cloud	ie tie	ea beads	oy boy	ir girl	ue glue	ue queue
aw saw	wh whistle	ph elephant	ew pew	ew screw	oe toe	au haunted	ey monkey
a-e snake	e-e* even	i-e slide	o-e bone	u-e flute	u-e cube		

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*even

Pronunciation of sounds are on school website!

How can I help my child at home?

- There are lots of websites available to help your child with their phonics.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwjbqyc>

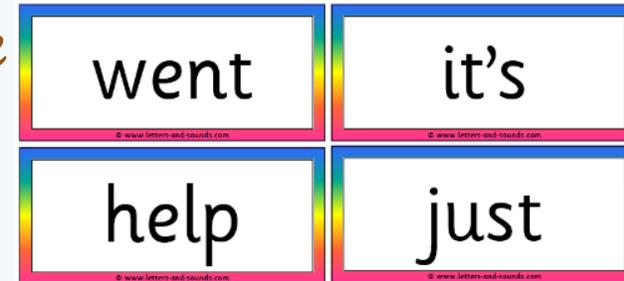
<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html>

http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html

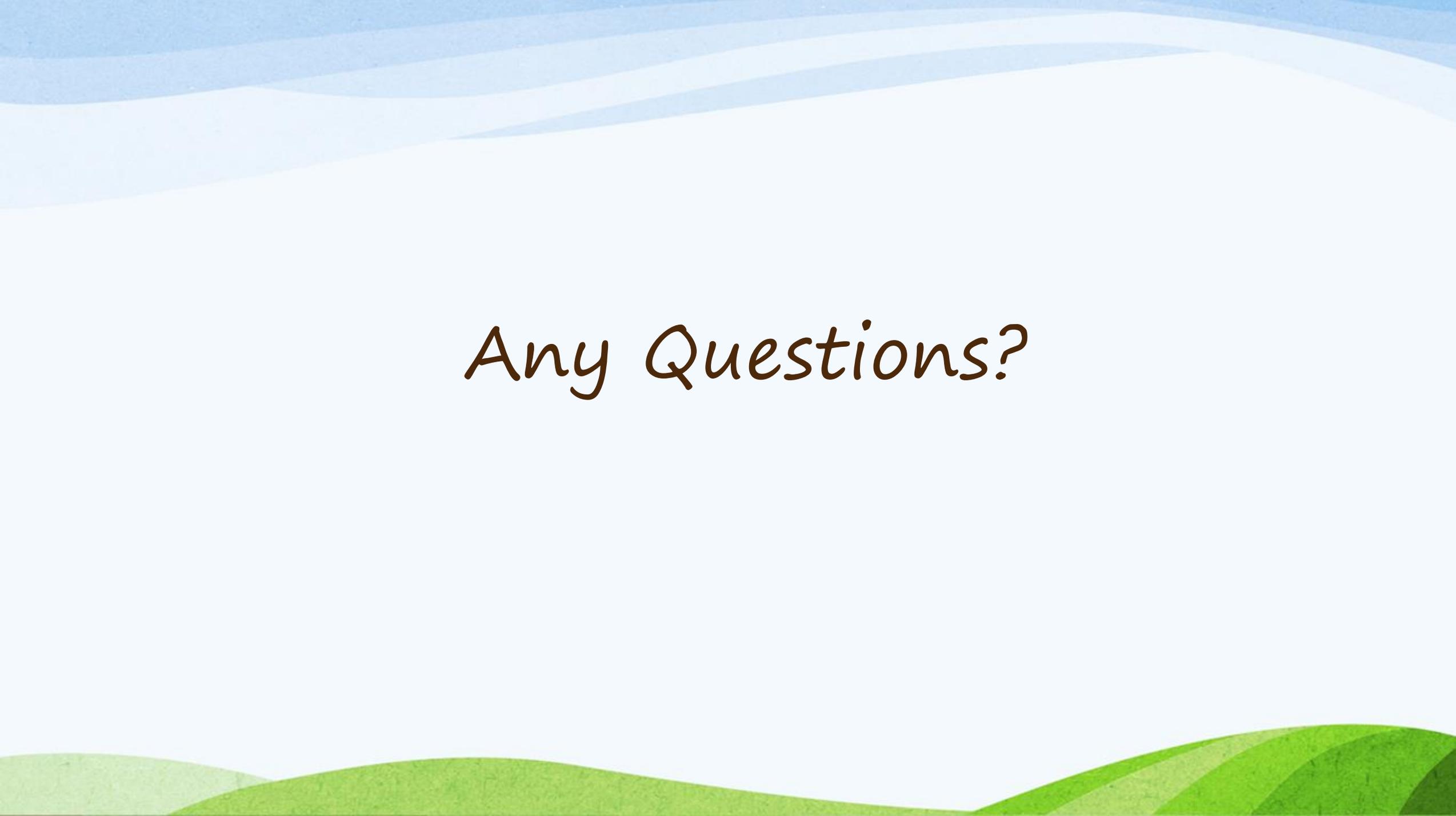
<http://phonicsplay.co.uk/> - Phonics Play has some excellent resources using 'non words'.

<https://www.youtube.com/@MrTsPhonics>

<https://letters-and-sounds.com/> - Letters and Sounds has some simple flash cards that can be printed at home for children to practise with and draw sound buttons onto.



Don't forget about your reading books and library books.
Practising reading daily automatically helps with decoding!



Any Questions?