

# Phonics Screening Check

2026  
KS1

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

## HOW THE CHECK WORKS

- The check is carried out 1:1 in school by a teacher or trained member of staff
- It includes 40 words, split into two sections of 20
- Each section contains a mix of real words and pseudo-words (made-up words that are phonically decodable but not real)
- Children receive a score from 0-40 (one point per word read correctly)
- There is no set time limit, but it usually takes around five to ten minutes

## RESULTS AND NEXT STEPS

- The Phonics Screening Check (PSC) is a short national check for Year 1 pupils
- Schools share each child's result with parents before the end of the summer term
- If a child does not meet the expected standard in Year 1, the school should provide additional support with phonics.
- Children who don't meet the standard in Year One usually take the check again in Year 2

## WHY IT MATTERS

- The Phonics Screening Check is a statutory (required) national check that assesses whether pupils have met the expected standard in phonics decoding (using phonics to read words).
- It helps schools identify which pupils may need extra support with phonics.

## DATES FOR THE CHECK

- **8-12 June 2026:** Phonics Screening Check week – schools choose a day during this week for each child to take the check.
- Children will complete it in one short session, but the school may test different children on different days across the week.
- **Up to 19 June 2026:** Extra time is available for any children who were absent during check week.