Phonics Screening Check

A Guide For Year 1 Parents

INTRODUCTION

The phonics screening check for Year 1 children will be taking place the week commencing Monday 8th June 2026.

In order to prepare children for this, they have already been taking part in daily phonics sessions to teach and consolidate sounds. To help your child with this, please try to read with them a minimum of 4 times a week.

WHAT IS PHONICS?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skillfully.

They are taught how to:

recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes;

identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make and blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can then use this knowledge to ‘de-code’ new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.

Parent video: How to say the sounds - YouTube

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SPEED SOUNDS SET 1

Consonant sounds – stretchy

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng nk

Consonant sounds – bouncy

b	c k	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch

Vowel sounds – bouncy

a	e	i	o	u

Vowel sounds – stretchy

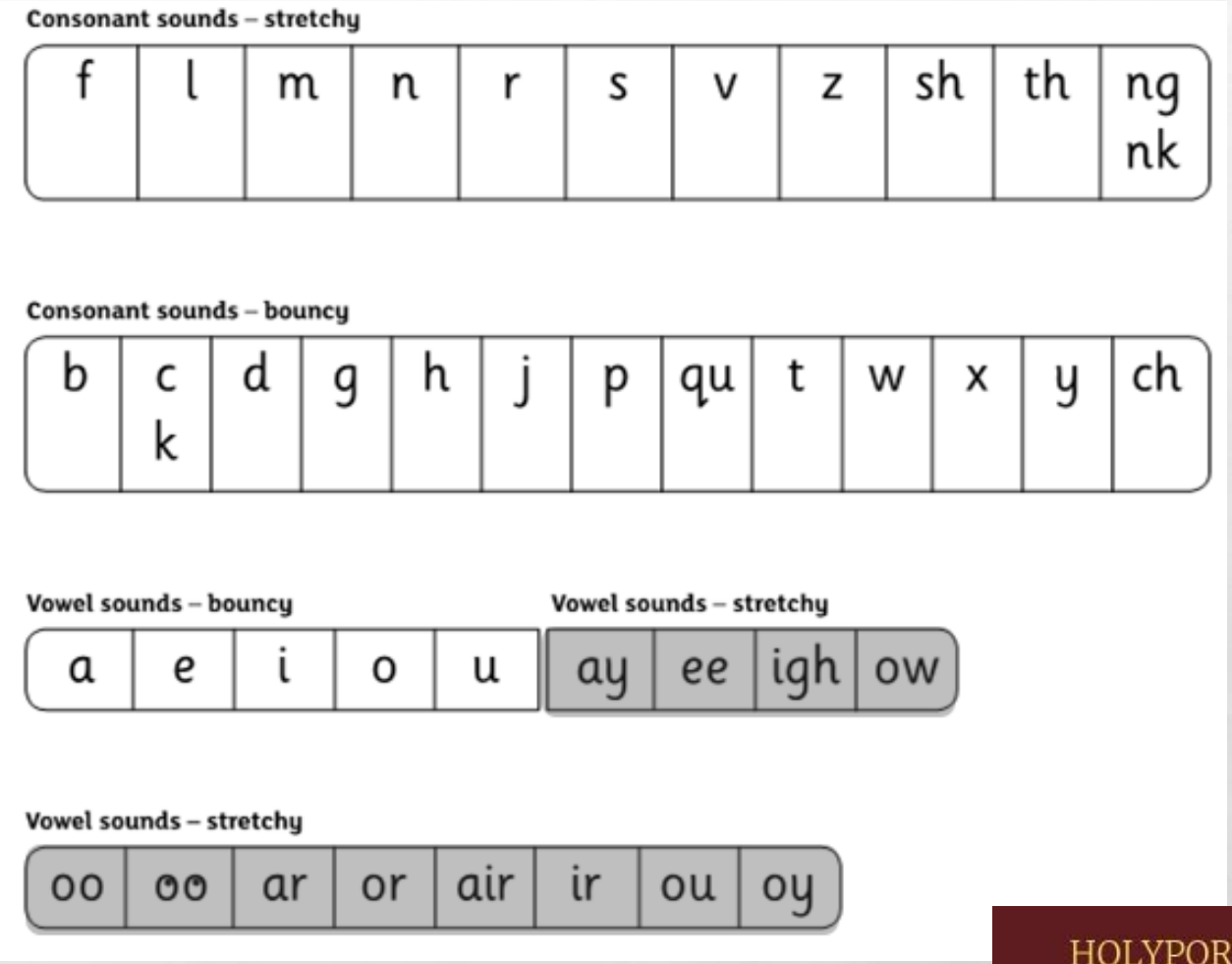
ay	ee	igh	ow

Vowel sounds – stretchy

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy

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SPEED SOUNDS SET 2



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SPEED SOUNDS SET 3

Consonant sounds

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
ff	ll	mm	nn	rr	ss	ve	zz	ti		nk
ph	le	mb	kn	wr	se		s	ci		
					c		se			
					ce					

b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
bb	k	dd	gg		g	pp		tt	wh			tch
	ck				ge							
	ch				dge							

Vowel sounds

a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow
	ea				a-e	e-e	i-e	o-e
					ai	y	ie	oa
						ea	i	o
						e	y	

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy	ire	ear	ure
u-e			oor	are	ur	ow	oi			
ue			ore		er					
ew			aw							
			au							

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PICTURE PHRASES

ay



may I play?

2. day, play, may, way, lay, say, tray, spray

aw



yawn at dawn

3. saw, raw, law, straw, dawn, paw, crawl, jaw, claw, yawn

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SOUNDS + BLENDING = READING

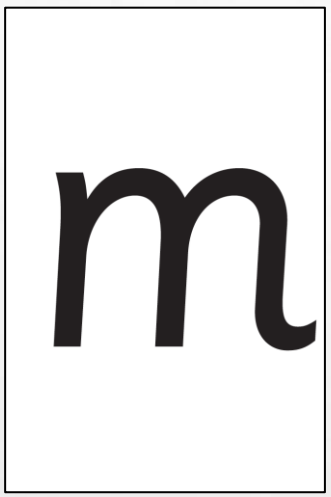


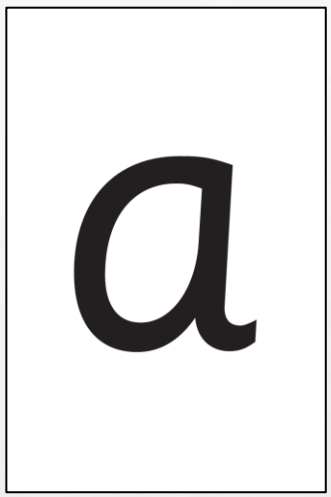
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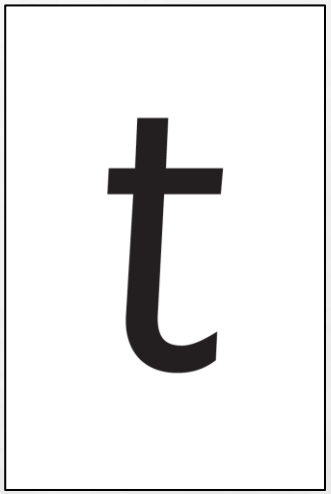
sat

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READING WITH FRED TALK







mat

SPECIAL FRIENDS, FRED TALK, READ THE WORD

spray

crawl

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FRED TALK ROUTINE

1. Say the word in sounds as Fred e.g. c-a-t.
2. Ask your child to repeat. Can they ‘jump-in’ with the whole word?
3. Say the word in sounds followed by the whole word e.g. c-a-t, cat
4. Ask your child to repeat



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FRED TALK GAMES

Shall we have some **l-u-n-ch**?

What would you like to **p-l-ay**?

Let's put on your **c-oa-t**.



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STORY BOOKS

Accuracy

Fluency

Comprehension

Read and enjoy at home

PHONICS SCREENING

The National phonics screening check is a statutory assessment that was introduced in 2012 to all Year One pupils and is a quick and easy check of your child's phonic knowledge learnt through Reception and Year One.

It comprises of a list of 20 real and 20 nonsense words. Your child will read one-to-one with their teacher and will read 4 words per page.

The check will last approximately 10-15 minutes.

They will be asked to 'sound out' and blend the sounds together to read the word.

The check is very similar to tasks the children already complete during phonic lessons.

REAL WORDS AND NONSENSE WORDS

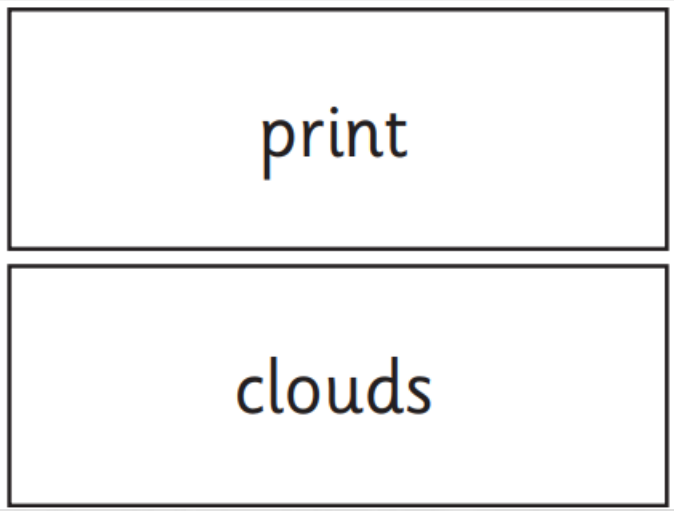
- In addition to a range of real words, the phonics screening check includes a number of nonsense words. These are not real words. To allow children to identify the word as a nonsense word it is presented with a picture of an alien and they are encouraged to sound out the strange word exactly as shown.

- Nonsense words are included to check that children are using phonics and not just sight reading the words.

- Some children can try to make a real word and this is why we frequently read nonsense words so that the children just sound out what they see.

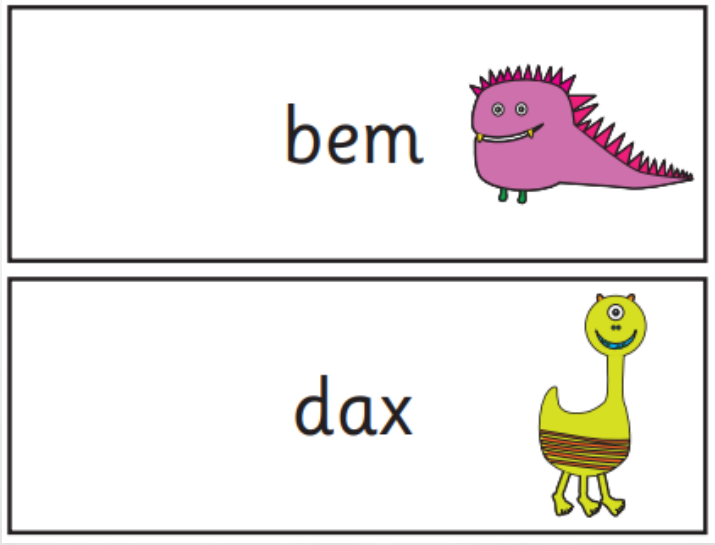
REAL WORDS

This is an example of the way that the real words are presented.



NONSENSE WORDS

This is an example of the way that the nonsense words are presented.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LbKGLJPp6ww

MAKE IT FUN!!

Phonics Play - https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/

Top marks - https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds

AND FINALLY…

- REMEMBER: phonics is only one part of becoming a good reader.
- Your child will continue to read long after the phonics screening check has been and gone, please read daily and remind your child to:
  - Sound out new words
  - Check that what they read makes sense and self correct if not
  - Look for clues in the illustrations
  - Ask lots of questions to help with comprehension

KEY TAKEAWAYS…

- Please do not be tempted to go through past papers with your child – we use them for our assessments and they then form part of the support we give your child to help them with phonics.
- Please go through the words sent home as often as you can and write this in your child's reading record.
- Keep it fun, use phonics play or write words on paper and get your child to sort into real and nonsense words.

Thank you for your support

Are there any questions?

