

Phonics screening check

What is the phonics screening check?

All **Year 1** pupils in England take the phonics screening check. It's done in school by our staff.

The check is made up of 40 words, and usually lasts 5-10 minutes. Some words are real words, and others are nonsense, or 'alien' words, that help to show if pupils can work out how to decode words they haven't seen before.

The check helps us to see:

- How pupils are progressing in phonics
- Where to provide additional teaching and support

The check may not be appropriate for some pupils. We'll let you know if we think this is the case for your child.

When will it be happening?

Year 1 will do the phonics screening check in **June 2023**

Do we get to know the results?

We have to report the results to the local authority by the end of the autumn (year 2) or summer (year 1) term. We'll also let you know the results after your child has sat the screening.

If your child does not meet the expected standard in the check, they'll get to have another go next year (for year 1) or in the summer term (for year 2). It's normally nothing to worry about.

The results don't count towards any league tables.

Do we need to prepare at home?

Your child is being taught phonics at school and no special work at home is needed.

However, you can always help your child by:

- Reading to and with them and recording in their reading journals.
- Playing sound and reading games, for example on websites such as [phonicsplay](https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)
- Encourage children to use 'fred talk' when decoding unfamiliar words

If you have any questions or want to talk further about the phonics screening check, please contact Lauren Redfearn (English and KS1 Lead) by email at lauren.redfearn@st-albans.doncaster.sch.uk