



27th April 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

This letter has been sent out to inform you of the upcoming Phonics Screening Check (PSC). All children in Year 1 must sit the PSC in the Summer term- school uses the outcomes to help identify what your child needs next in their reading so they can become fluent and confident readers.

What is the Phonics Screening Check (PSC)?

Children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the same week in June. Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when in Year 1 or they have not taken the test before. The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.



What Happens During the Screening?

The test contains 40 words. Each child will sit one-to-one and read each word aloud to a teacher. The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child, although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace. The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words).

Pseudo Words (Nonsense Words)

The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This provides the children with a context for the pseudo word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have. Pseudo words are included because they will be new to all pupils; they do not favour children with a good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words.

Practice sheet: pseudo-words	Practice sheet: real words
ot 	in
vap 	at
osk 	beg
ect 	sum

Reporting to Parents

By the end of the summer term all schools must report each child's results to their parents. The result will be included in your child's end of year report. It will also confirm if your child has met the standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in Year 2.

How Are the Results Used?

Results from the check will be used by schools to analyse their own performance and for Ofsted to use in inspections as well as identify next steps in learning for individual pupils.

What can you do to help at home?

1. Help your child to use 'Special Friends', 'Fred Talk' to read words.
2. Practise reading **sounds** speedily.
3. Watch the Virtual Classroom films together on **Seesaw**.
4. Listen to your child read their Storybook every day.
5. Check your child's sounds using the chart attached to the letter.



How do I use the Virtual Classroom?

1. Set aside 10 minutes to watch a film with your child each day.
2. Find a quiet space for your child to watch the film on a laptop or tablet.
3. Praise your child as they join in with the lesson – make it fun!

Find more free parent resources on www.ruthmiskin.com

Ruth Miskin Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/miskin.education>

Useful websites:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

lots of information and guidance for parents/carers

<https://ictgames.com/mobilePage/literacy.html>

a great selection of games that link well with games in Letters and Sounds.

If you have any questions or would like further support with how you can help your child at home please speak to your child's teacher.

Mrs John

Phonics and Early Reading lead

Speed Sounds Set 1

m 	a 	s 	d 	t 
i 	n 	p 	g 	o 
c 	k 	u 	b 	f 
e 	l 	h 	sh 	r 
j 	v 	y 	w 	th 
z 	ch 	qu 	x 	ng nk

Speed Sounds Set 2

ay  may I play?	ee  what can you see?	igh  fly high	ow  blow the snow	oo  poo at the zoo
oo  look at a book	ar  start the car	or  shut the door	air  that's not fair	ir  whirl and twirl

Speed Sounds Set 3

ea  cup of tea	oi  spoil the boy	ou  shout it out	oy  toy for a boy	
ā-e  make a cake	ī-e  nice smile	ō-e  phone home	ū-e  huge brute	aw  yawn at dawn
are  care and share	ur  nurse with a purse	er  a better letter	ow  brown cow	ai  snail in the rain
oa  goat in a boat	ew  chew the stew	ire  fire, fire!	ear  hear with your ear	ure  sure it's pure