

Phonics Screening Check 2020

- A statutory assessment for all children in Year 1.
- Every school usually administers the PSC in June. This year it will be at the beginning of December for Year 2 children.
- It consists of 40 words that must be read one-to-one to a teacher.
- It is a combination of real and pseudo (fake) words.

The Phonic Screening Check is not a reading test. It is an assessment of children's ability to decode words using their phonic knowledge.

Example of real words included

in

at

beg

sum

grand

cloaks

scrap

strike

Pseudo (fake) words included

ot



vap



osk



ect



braft



thrant



sprop

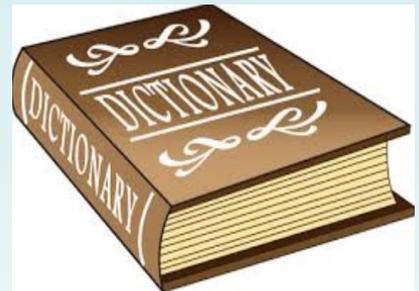


strow



What are pseudo (fake) words?

- Pronounceable combinations of letters that can be read by the application of grapheme-phoneme conversion rules, but they are, by definition, not real words in English.



Why have pseudo (fake) words been included?

- Pseudo (fake) words are new to all children and therefore test their ability to decode words. This means that they do not favour children with good vocabulary or visual memory of words, therefore the check tests them on their ability to use phonics to read words.

Pseudo (fake) words

- All pseudo (fake) words in the screening check are accompanied by a picture of an imaginary creature to provide a context for the pupil (naming the type of imaginary creature).
- This is to ensure that they are not trying to match the pseudo (fake) word to a word in their vocabulary.

Glossary

v = vowel – a,e,i,o,u

c = consonant - the other letters e.g. b,c,d,f,g

vc words = a word with one vowel followed by one consonant e.g. in

digraph – one sound made by two letters e.g. oo or sh

trigraph – one sound made by three letters e.g. igh

Structure and Content

The PSC is divided into two sections

Section 1

- A variety of simple word structures (CVC - **cat**, VCC - **ant**, CCVC - **step** and CVCC - **past**) using single letters (a, b, c and so on), some consonant digraphs (ch, ck, ff, ll, ng, sh, ss, th, zz) and frequent and consistent vowel digraphs (ar, ee, oi, oo, or).

Structure and Content

Section 2

- This will contain a variety of more complex word structures (CCVCC - **stand**, CCCVC - **scrap**, CCCVCC - **spring** and two syllable words) with some additional consonant digraphs (ph, wh), some less frequent and consistent vowel digraphs including split digraphs (a-e, e-e, i-e) and trigraphs (air, igh).

How will the Phonics Screening Check be carried out?

- Prior to the test children will be shown practice sheets with examples of real and pseudo (fake) words. Therefore, when they come to take the PSC the materials will be familiar to them.
- The test will be carried out by a teacher familiar to the child.
- It will occur in a comfortable, noise free and well lit environment away from distractions.

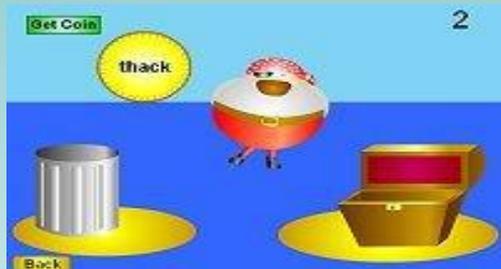
How will the Phonics Screening Check be carried out?

- There is no time limit for the test but it normally takes between 4 and 9 minutes per child.
- If the teacher administering the test believes a child is finding it difficult to concentrate during the PSC then rest breaks may be taken when needed.
- Modifications may be made to the PSC to suit the individual needs of the children.

How are we helping children to prepare for the PSC?

- Focused Phonics lessons planned specifically for the phase that the children are currently at.
- Phonics assessments are carried out every term to assess which Phase each child is at. Children should reach Phase 6 by the end of Year 2.
- Reading - children are encouraged to decode unfamiliar words using their phonic knowledge.

Phonic Games you can play at home!



[http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk
/ BuriedTreasure2.html](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/BuriedTreasure2.html)



[http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk
/ DragonsDen.html](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/DragonsDen.html)

How can parents support their children prepare for the PSC?

- When reading at home encourage children to sound out both familiar and unfamiliar words in their books.
- Encouraging children to read everywhere e.g. whilst shopping.
- Word games e.g. I spy, snap.
- Making up pseudo (fake) words of their own.



How will I know if my child has met the PSC standard?

- The school will inform you before the end of the Autumn Term.

What does this mean?

- They have a secure knowledge of the phonic content that has been taught in Year 1 and they are able to apply it when reading.

What happens if my child does not meet the PSC standard?

- They will receive further support in Year 2, including small group work and 1:1 catch up programmes if necessary.
- At the end of Year 2 they will be re-tested to check that they have met the standard set by the government.