

Phonics Information Evening Handout

What is phonics and why do we teach it?

Phonics teaches children to recognise **graphemes** (the written letters) and associate these with **phonemes** (the spoken sounds).

In Spanish, there are 30 phonemes (sounds) represented by 27 graphemes (written letters).

In English, we have over 40 phonemes (sounds) represented by only 26 graphemes (written letters).

Because of this, the English language is made up of single sounds as well as digraphs and trigraphs.

digraph - two letters to make one sound.



split digraphs- a pair of letters that work together to make one long vowel sound but are separated by a consonant.



trigraph - three letters to make one sound.



In English, we also sometimes use the same grapheme to represent different phonemes.

In the word great the ea sounds like an 'ay', but in the word read, the ea sounds like an 'ee'. Unless read is in the past tense, then the ea becomes an 'e' sound.

This makes learning to read English more challenging for children. Phonics is an established way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully.

What is the Phonics Screen Check?

The Phonics Screening Check is designed to allow schools to assess whether children have made expected progress within their phonics learning and have reached an appropriate standard.

It can help teachers to identify gaps in children's phonics knowledge and gives the school a picture of where children may be excelling or requiring extra support.

Every school is expected to complete the Phonics Screen Check.

What does the Phonics Screen Check look like?

The Phonics Screening Check is designed not to be stressful for your child. It will mirror the way we regularly practise and assess children in phonics already.

We will not be telling the children that it is the check.

The check is made up of 40 words - some real/some alien (nonsense) words.

Example Below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/68efa35b82670806f9d5e0f5/2025_phonics_screening_check_practice_sheet.pdf

Frequently asked questions

When will the Phonics Screen Check take place?

It usually takes place sometime in June.

How will the Phonics Screen Check results be shared?

The results of the phonics screen check will be included as part of the reading section in your child's end of year report.

What happens if my child does not pass the Phonics Screen Check?

They will be able to retake the check in Year 2.

How can you help at home?

Enjoy reading together

Read with your child/read to your child. Discuss the meaning of words as you read them. Ask your child to sound out some words as you read to them.

Phonics Games

Games can be a great way to practise phonics. I spy, creating your own nonsense words or using the online phonics games on the website can help your child indeed their focus knowledge.

Phonics Revision Materials

Use the phonics revision materials on the website (paper copies available) to regularly practise phonics at home.

<https://ullesthorpeprimary.web12.juniperwebsites.co.uk/page/?title=Phonics+At+Home&pid=233>