

PHONICS SCREENING CHECK FOR PARENTS

11TH FEBRUARY 2026

MRS BADGER

Slides will be sent to you and added to Google Classroom.

We will discuss

1 What is Phonics?

2 What is the Phonics Screening Check?

3 What happens during the screening?

4 Reporting to Parents

5 How are the results used?

6 How can I help my child at home?

What is Phonics?

Phonics is an effective way of teaching children to read. Through phonics, children are taught how to:



recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes



identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make, such as 'sh' or 'oo'

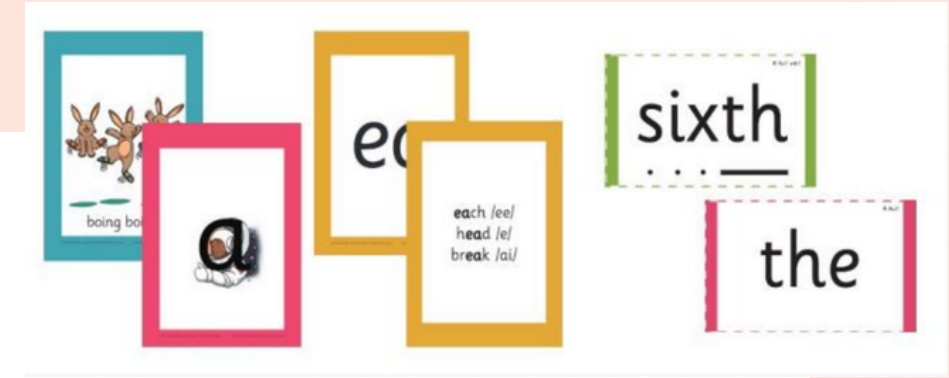


blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word

Children can then use this knowledge to 'decode' new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.



What is Phonics?



At Green Lanes we use Little Wandle Letters and Sounds as our Phonics scheme.

We have daily phonic sessions where 4 new sounds a week are taught with a review lesson planned for a Friday.

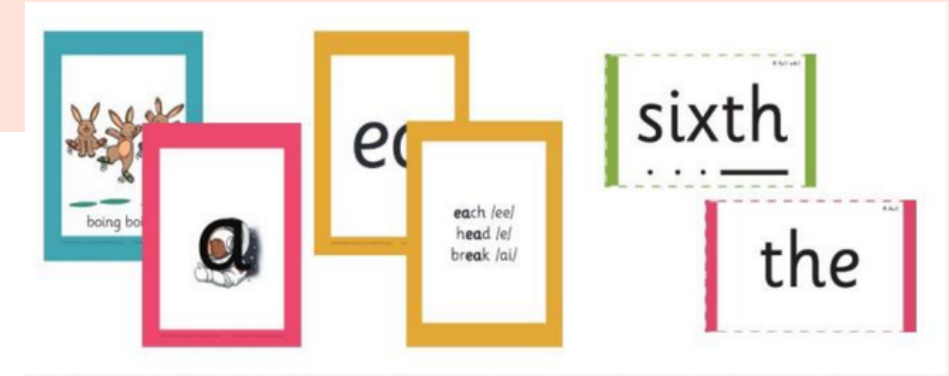
After 5 weeks of teaching the children are assessed on the sounds they have been learning, their blending skills, reading of words with key sounds and tricky words that have been introduced.

The assessments will inform reading book levels and whether the child will need some keep up sessions (these can be 1-1 or small group) in order to stay on track.

Children participate in 3 reading practise sessions a week with a decodable book.



What is Phonics?



We add a summary sheet to Google Classroom and send a print out home on a Friday.

At home please look through this as it will explain the sounds we have learnt that week and give you some examples for your child to read and spell at home.

Little Wandle - Letters and Sounds Year 1 Phonics Home Learning				
Phase 5 - Spring 2 Week 2 Focus - tch /ch/ ture /ch/ al /ar/				
Please support your child to practise and reinforce the phonemes and graphemes we are learning in school. More information and support can be found on the Little Wandle website - https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/				
Phonemes we will be focusing on this week in school -				
tch	/ch/ match	ture	/ch/ adventure	
al	/ar/ half			
We will be reading and writing words. Can you see this week's focus phonemes?				
kitchen	calm	palm	creature	
nasty	match	nature	patch	
mask	almond	adventure	branch	
We will be reading and writing sentences. Can you spot any tricky words? Can you see this week's focus phonemes? Can you read these sentences fluently?				
Can you fetch the cheese from the kitchen please?				
I would be an adventure to see an octopus in nature.				
I saw a calf being born in the farmyard.				
I am making a mask in the craft lesson.				
We will be practising tricky words. Can you spot the tricky part of the word?				
once	our	laugh	because	eye
We will be spelling words. Can you write these words? Can you use the correct phonemes?				

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

In June, children will undertake a statutory assessment called the Phonics Screening Check (PSC).

The test is designed to confirm whether a child has learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.

The PSC contains 40 words divided up into two sections of 20 words.

Both sections contain a mixture of real and pseudo-words.



Pseudo words are words that are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning. They are included to check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using their phonic skills.

Pseudo words have a picture of an alien next to them. This ensures that they are not trying to match the word to a word in their vocabulary.



What happens during the check?

The Phonics Screening Check will be carried out by myself (Mrs Badger). I am a familiar adult to all the children in the year group and regularly teach phonics and reading practise sessions to all children in the year group.

The test takes place in the library. Each child will sit the test one to one and read each word aloud.

The test will take approximately ten minutes to complete. However there is no time limit and children can go at their own pace.

The children will have had lots of practise before the test so it will be very familiar to them. They will not know that it is even a test.

Reporting to parents



We will share the results in our summer term report.

If your child has found it difficult, we will let you know what support we are putting in place to help your child improve. We might send some resources home.

Miss Harvey and myself will be talking about next steps for your child in our upcoming parents consultations.

Children who have not passed the PSC will re-take it again in Year 2. The results of any re-takes will also be shared with you.

The pass mark for the last few years has been 32 out of 40. This is reviewed each year.

How are the results used?

We will have access to all pupils' results to identify those who need additional support and to help make plans to help them improve.

The Department for Education does not publish school-level results for the PSC, but schools will have access to national, regional and local authority results to allow them to benchmark their pupils' performance.



Department
for Education

How can I help my child at home?



PHONICS WORKS BEST WHEN CHILDREN ARE GIVEN PLENTY OF ENCOURAGEMENT AND LEARN TO ENJOY READING AND BOOKS!

Parents play a very important part in helping with this.

- please ensure you are returning reading books every Monday
- listen to your child read every night for 5/10 minutes
- you can encourage your child to highlight phonic sounds when they see them out and about
- encourage your child to sound out and blend unfamiliar words they come across and explain to them what they mean.
- using the sound cards we have provided you daily will help. (We will send a new set out once we have finished learning all sounds.)
- we will begin to send home word lists and nonsense words weekly for you to review at home.

Thank you for listening

I will be here for some time after the meeting. Please do come and ask me any questions you might have.

You can always catch me on the gate or email me via the school office.

admin@greenlanes.herts.sch.uk

