

Phonics Screening Check

The phonics screening check was launched nationally in 2012. All children in Year 1 must take the phonics screening check. This is usually carried out in the 3rd week in June each year.

Children in Year 2 must also take the check if they did not meet the required standard in Year 1.

The check is carried out on a one to one basis with your child's class teacher. Most children enjoy the extra attention they get and are not upset by taking part. The pass mark is not announced until the end of the testing period.

Structure of Phonics Screening Check

The phonics screening check contains 40 words divided into two sections of 20 words. Both sections contain a mixture of real words and pseudo-words.

Section 1

- Page 1 Four pseudo-words
- Page 2 Four pseudo-words
- Page 3 Four pseudo-words
- Page 4 Four real words
- Page 5 Four real words

Section 2

- Page 6 Four pseudo-words
- Page 7 Four pseudo-words
- Page 8 Four real words
- Page 9 Four real words
- Page 10 Four real words

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

At Broadway we refer to pseudo- words as monster or alien words.

Examples of past papers can be found on the Department for Education (DfE) website.