



Phonics Screening Check 2026

A Simple Guide for Parents From the Team at Monster Phonics

What is it?

A short national reading check for children in Year 1 in England.

It assesses whether children can use phonics to read words accurately.

What does my child do?

- Reads 40 words to a teacher
- Some real words
- Some made up “alien” words

The made up words check that children can sound out unfamiliar words using phonics, rather than guessing.

The check is done one to one with a familiar adult. There is no time limit. Most children finish in 5–10 minutes.

Scoring

- 1 point per word
- Total score out of 40
- The national pass mark is set each year

Schools share results before the end of the summer term.

If my child does not meet the standard

The school will provide extra phonics support.

Children usually retake the check in Year 2.

Many children simply need more time and practice.

When in 2026?

- 8–12 June 2026
- Additional days available up to 19 June if needed

Why it matters

Secure phonics helps children read confidently and fluently.

When decoding becomes automatic, children can focus on understanding and enjoying what they read.

That is the real goal.