





Preparing for the phonics screening check

The phonics screening check is an informal way for schools to assess your child's progress in reading. The phonics screening check is used by teachers to assess children's phonics skills learned through Reception and Year 1. It usually takes place in the summer term of Year 1

There are two sections in this 40-word check. Your child will read up to four words per page for their teacher and they will probably do the check in one sitting of about 5–10 minutes. Although the check is compulsory, it isn't a formal test and is usually carried out by the class teacher, one-to-one, in a relaxed environment. The check also includes some nonsense words (pseudo) that are phonically decodable but are not real words. These check children's decoding skills, making sure they cannot guess the word.

Your child is already making progress towards this screen check but if you would like more information, please speak to your child's class teacher who can support you with this further.

Section 1	Section 2
brend 	label
throst 	vanish
stret 	blossom
spraw 	thankful

Glossary



Sound talk - sounding out the word before reading (blending)

Sounds in your head - Sounding out in your head before saying the word without blending.

Dots and Dashes – circles and lines that are used under a letter or more than one letter to identify graphemes.

Special friends (grapheme) - the written representation of a letter or more than one letter.

Phoneme –the pure sound of a letter or group of letters.

Speedy read – reading words quickly and in succession to develop word recognition.

Fluency - reading without the need to sound out letters or blend words.

Reading at Moss Park Primary



Your child is learning to read with 'Bug Club Phonics' Phonics is very important in teaching children how to be able to read sounds, blend sounds and eventually be able to read words. Phonics is the foundation to being able to read with accuracy before becoming a confident and fluid reader.

Your child will be able to read in a very simple way. He or she will be able to:

1. Read letters by the sounds they make.
2. Blend each of these sounds to be able to make words.
3. Read words in stories.
4. Build fluency of words and word recognition.
5. Recognise sound patterns to support spellings and spelling rules.



What does phonics look like for children?



Children will begin to learn phonics very early in their stages of development. This learning stage is called Phase 1. Children develop a love of listening, repeating and rehearsing familiar nursery rhymes along with environmental sounds that develop the ability for a child to listen to the world around them.

In Reception children soon begin to hear letter sounds along with what the sounds look like, this is called Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence (GCP's). It is an integral part of the teaching of phonics that all children hear the sound, recognise the sound and are able to begin to form these letter shapes ready for progression into Year 1



Bug Club

How does 'Bug Club' support my child's learning?

Phonics is taught every day at Moss Park Primary school. Each lesson is delivered in a timely manner where children are visually and vocally active in being able to learn a hear a new sound, see a new sound and practice the sound. Sounds are taught through the teaching strategies of 'special friends', 'My turn Your turn' and speedy reading. It is important that children not only learn a sound but they are also able to read the sound within words.



Children learn to recognise graphemes through the use of 'dots and dashes' which are taught explicitly throughout the programme. Once children are familiar with the graphemes (special friends) and are able to blend these sounds, they are encouraged to use sound talk 'in their head'. Teachers present the children with these words over a series of units, using this strategic teaching method and rapidly building up word recognition and word fluency.

So what does reading look like?

Reading happens every day in specific phonics lessons, guided reading and targeted readers. Moss Park Primary school uses the 'phonics bug' books which are sequenced along side the phonics scheme. This ensures that all children first learn the sounds that they will meet in the book before they are allowed to take it home as a fluent reader.

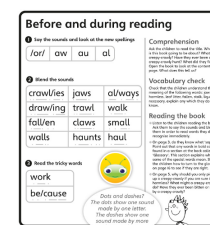


Children will learn the sounds within each book and through guided reading and targeted reading practice, children are taught to decode the sounds, blend them and build up their fluency. It is important to understand that reading is taught at school and the phonics books that children take home are two units below the ones that they are learning in phonics sessions at school.

Is my child's book too easy for them?

Yes! You might think this but can your child read the book fluently without needing to decode any of the words or pause to 'sound talk'? When you hear your child read they should be able to read the book that they bring home with ease. It is important that home reading books are accessible by your child and that there is no need for help from a grown up. Typically, your child will be reading a unit above the book that they bring home. So for example a Unit 7 home reader will be learning Unit 9 in school. The phonics programme ensures that fluency and ability to read sounds that have been taught, is well practiced as children move through the phonics and reading scheme.

How can I help at home?



You can still help your child read at home. Children get to choose a school library book each week. This is what we call a 'non-decodable reader', but your child might really like to read it with you. So why not help them by developing that love for reading beyond the home reading books that are designed to teach reading? Another great way is to also use your child's 'home reader' by getting them to practice the sound charts in the front of each and every book. Doing this daily while listening to your child practice their reading fluency will help to embed their reading skills. You can also check out the phonic bug eBooks which offer additional learning support to develop home readers.