



Courthill Infant School

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5th May 2026

Dear Parents / Carers

The statutory Phonics Screening Check will take place in Year 1 in the week beginning 8th June 2026. This national check is designed to assess whether children have developed the phonic decoding and blending skills expected for their age. All Year 1 children across the country will participate in this screening.

The screening check consists of a ten-page booklet with four words on each page. The check contains 40 words, which pupils read one-to-one with their teacher. Half of the words will be real words and the other half will be nonsense-words (pseudo/alien words). Each pseudo word will be accompanied by a picture of an alien. This is used to provide the children with a context for the word they are being asked to decode (naming the imaginary/alien creature). Being able to read these made-up words shows that a child can apply their phonics knowledge to unfamiliar vocabulary, which is a key reading skill. A good phonic knowledge underpins the further success of a child's ability to read and write. Sometimes children need other strategies besides phonics, and rest assured we will continue to adapt our strategies to suit the needs of each individual child.

The children are already familiar with the phonics screening check as they have practised previous versions of the paper in fun and interactive ways.

You will be informed if your child has met the required standard. If your child does not meet the required standard, appropriate support will be put in place, until they have the chance to re-take the check at the end of Year 2. This support may include phonics interventions or the children participating in the daily phonics lesson in Year One. We will let you know closer to the time how we are supporting your child. If your child is not completing the phonics screening, you will already have been made aware of this.

Please see the link below for any further information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phonics-screening-check-information-for-parents/phonics-screening-check-2024-information-for-parents-text-only-version>

Here are some other useful links to support your child at home: Correct pronunciation of phonemes:

<https://youtu.be/UCI2mu7URBc>

Free phonics games and activities: <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> Our recommended games available for free are 'Buried Treasure, Dragon's Den, and Picnic on Pluto'.

As always, we recommend reading regularly with your child. If you have any questions, please speak to me or your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Logan
Year 1 Lead

