



The Crescent Primary School

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Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Department of Education implements a statutory assessment for all children in Year 1 called the 'Phonics Screening Check'. Your child will take part in this assessment during the week beginning Monday 8th June 2026.

The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard for Year 1. The check comprises of a list of 40 words that children read one-to-one with a teacher.

The assessment will contain a mix of real words and 'non-words' (or 'nonsense words'). Non-words are important because words such as 'vap' or 'jound' are new to all children. Children cannot read the non-words by using their memory or vocabulary; they have to use their decoding skills. This is a fair way to assess their ability to decode.

To help your child in preparation for this assessment you can:

- Practise all the phase 3 and 5 sounds listed in their reading logs
- Practise reading the real and nonsense words listed on their homework sheet
- Access games such as 'Picnic on Pluto' on: www.phonicsplay.co.uk
- Reading at home as much as possible

If you would like to know more information about the assessment, please see your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely
The Year 1 Team

Reach for the Stars

