

# Year One Phonics Screening Check



March 2026



# Welcome to the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check meeting!



# Headteacher's Welcome

## The Benefits of Phonics:

**Phonics is a proven method for teaching children how to read and write by helping them understand the relationship between letters and the sounds they make. Here's why phonics is so important:**

- **Builds Strong Early Reading Skills:** Phonics teaches children to decode words by sounding them out, which helps them read unfamiliar words with confidence.
- **Improves Spelling:** By learning sound-letter patterns, children also become better at spelling and writing words independently.
- **Boosts Confidence:** As children learn to read more fluently through phonics, they become more confident and enthusiastic readers. We call these the “**Eureka moments**” here at St Monica's.
- **Supports All Learners:** Phonics provides a clear, structured approach that benefits all children, including those who may find reading more challenging and also the more advanced who can access harder texts earlier.
- **Backed by Research:** Phonics is part of the the national curriculum because it's supported by extensive research as one of the most effective ways to teach early reading.



# Strategies in Teaching Phonics

- Oral skills- blending, segmenting, rhyming and initial sounds
- Sound recognition- using these to read and write words and captions
- Common exception words - words which are not decodable (red words)
- High frequency words - words they come across regularly
- Digraphs, split digraphs and trigraphs, e.g sh, ee, a-e, igh,
- **Special friends, Fred talk, Read the word**

\*Children need to encounter words many times before we commit to memory so repetition and practice is important.

Fred Talk



Ruth Miskin  
Training



# Reading - what we do in school

## **How do we achieve these expected expectation?**

- Phonics programme – Read, Write, Inc
- Daily 45 mins phonics lessons
- Reading time - daily 15 mins - children read their phonics books and have an opportunity to read to their class teachers
- Short afternoon recap session as a class based on a sound or skill which needs embedding
- Story time - 10 minutes with a specific reading focus
- Additional small group 1:1 support (TA) during the afternoon sessions for those children who are not meeting the required expectations for the year.
- Phonics clubs before and after school for those children needign extra support

\*Home support is crucial and teachers may ask for support with specific areas.



# Phonics Screening Check

## For all year 1 children:

- The Phonics Screening Check will be delivered during the week of 8th June
- Please ensure children attend school this week.
- Children will complete the phonics screening check with a trained adult.
- Parents will be informed in the end of year report if their child has met or not met the expected standard.
- Children who have not met the expected standard will receive further phonics intervention during next year and they will sit it again
- Children can have a small break if needed
- It is delivered in a room they are familiar with

## What does the phonics screening check look like?

- 40 words to read
- 20 real words/ 20 nonsense (alien) words
- Covers only digraphs/trigraphs taught in school
- Pass mark is 32/40
- No time restrictions given to complete the check



# Phonics Screening Check

Section 2

brend



throst



stret



spraw



Section 2

label

vanish

blossom

thankful



# What can you do to support your child with reading?

- Listen to your child read every night.
- Ensure your child brings their reading book to school every day.
- Focus on developing an enjoyment and love of reading.
- Enjoy stories together – reading stories to your child is equally as important as listening to your child read.
- Read a little at a time but often, rather than rarely but for long periods of time.
- Talk about the story before, during and afterwards to check their understanding, there are key question at the back of their phonics books.
- All reading is valuable – it doesn't have to be just stories. Reading can involve anything from fiction and non-fiction, poetry, newspapers, magazines, football programmes, TV guides.
- Look up definitions of words together – you could use a dictionary, the internet or an app, phone or tablet.
- Visit the local library – it's free!

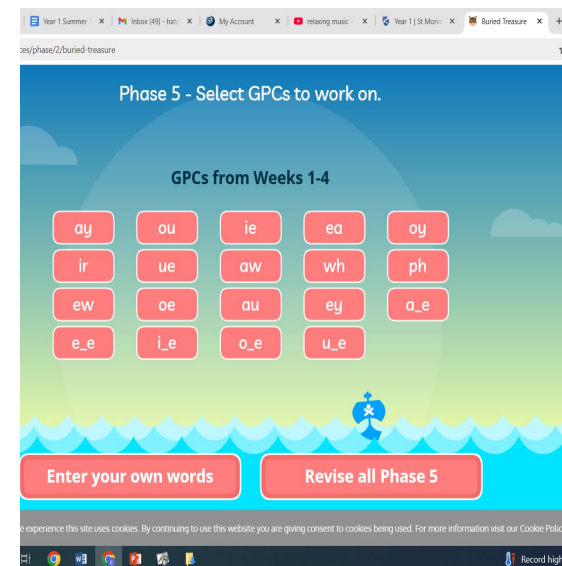
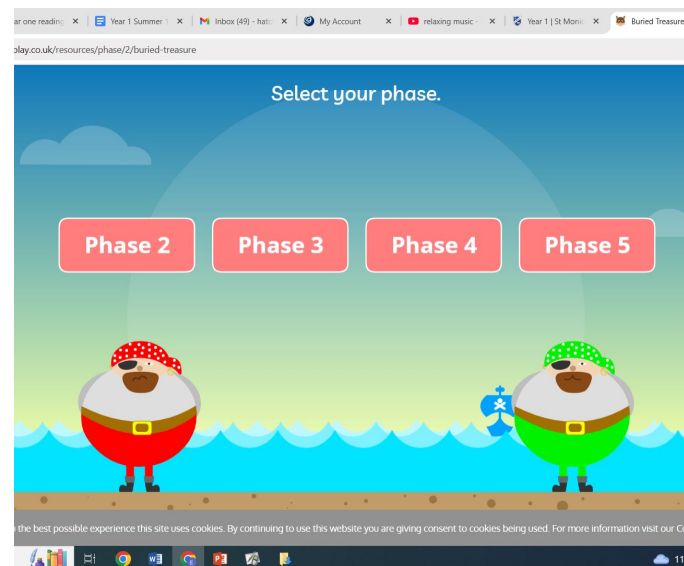
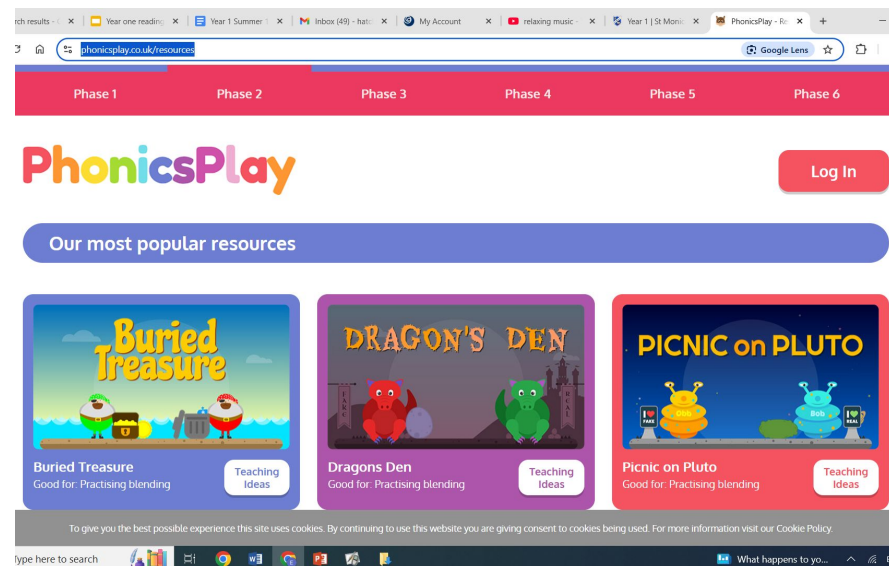


# What can you do to support your child with reading?

## Phonics Play

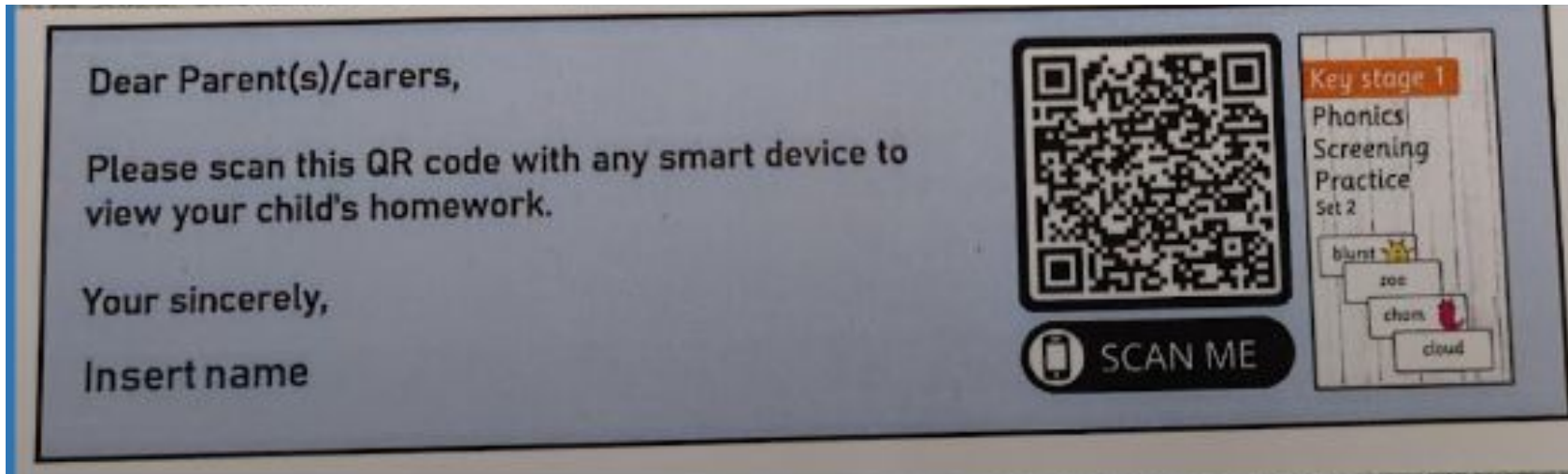
If you have a spare 5 minutes why not encourage your child to play a phonics game on their ipad or on the computer? Here is a link to a website we use in school, the children will be very familiar with it. Click on the game you want to play, then click phase 5, revise all phase 5.

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources>



# Phonics Screening Check

Four weeks prior to the test, you will receive extra support materials to help your child.



You might be given extra QR codes or words to read if we think your child needs an extra boost with certain sounds or skills, please complete these as they will really support your.



# IF YOU READ

Just one Book a day  
to your child



They will have read 1825 books  
by their 5th Birthday!



## When will I be informed about my child's progress?

You will receive information about your child's reading in your child's termly reports. End of year reports will be issued in July 2026.

Each child is assessed every 6 weeks to track their progress. Grouping are allocated every 6 weeks and your child will be placed in a group according to the outcome of their assessment. This will also indicate whether your child needs extra support or intervention.



**Please make sure  
your child has  
excellent attendance  
and punctuality.  
Phonics is the first  
thing we teach every  
day.**





**Thank you for  
your  
continued  
support,  
we really  
appreciate it!**

