**HEATHROW PRIMARY – A Triple A School.**
**Attitude Achievement Aspiration**

# Year 1 Phonics Screening Check – Parents Meeting

2025-2026

# Welcome

## Why are we here?

- To explain what the phonics screening check is.
- To show how children are prepared in school.
- To explain how parents can support at home.
- To reassure you and answer any questions

# What is Phonics?

- Phonics helps children learn to read and spell.
- Children learn:
    - Sounds (phonemes)
    - Letters or groups of letters (graphemes)
    - How to blend sounds to read words
- We follow the Read Write Inc phonics programme.

# What Is the Phonics Screening Check?

- A short reading check taken by all Year 1 children in England.
- Carried out one-to-one with a familiar adult
- Takes around 5-10 minutes.
- Designed to check how well children can use phonics to read words.

**Consonant sounds**

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| f<br>ff<br>ph | l<br>ll<br>le | m<br>mm<br>mb | n<br>nn<br>kn | r<br>rr<br>wr | s<br>ss<br>se<br>c<br>ce | v<br>ve | z<br>zz<br>s<br>se | sh<br>ti<br>ci | th | ng<br>nk |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| b<br>bb | c<br>k<br>ck<br>ch | d<br>dd | g<br>gg | h | j<br>g<br>ge<br>dge | p<br>pp | qu | t<br>tt | w<br>wh | x | y | ch<br>tch |

**Vowel sounds**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| a | e<br>ea | i | o | u | ay<br>a-e<br>ai | ee<br>e-e<br>y<br>ea<br>e | igh<br>i-e<br>ie<br>i<br>y | ow<br>o-e<br>oa<br>o |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| oo<br>u-e<br>ue<br>ew | oo | ar | or<br>oor<br>ore<br>aw<br>au | air<br>are | ir<br>ur<br>er | ou<br>ow | oy<br>oi | ire | ear | ure |

- Child learn to read all of the sounds on this chart.
- Once they know all of these sounds, they will be able to read any unfamiliar words.

# ‘Special Friends’, ‘Fred Talk’




- We teach children to read words using the routine ‘Special Friends’, ‘Fred Talk’, ‘Read the word’.
- Children spot the ‘Special Friends’ (two letters that make one sound), Fred talk the word, and then read the whole word.

# When Does the Check Take Place?

- Takes place in June.
- Completed during the normal school day.
- Children who do not meet the expected standard will retake it in Year 2.

# What Does the Check Look Like?

- Children read 40 words:
    - 20 real words
    - 20 nonsense (alien) words
- Words get harder as the check goes on
- Children can:
    - Sound out
    - Blend
    - Self-correct

Section 1

shin

fang

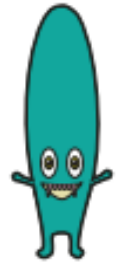
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Real Words

Section 1

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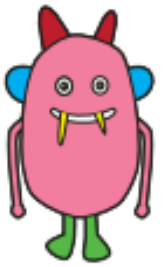
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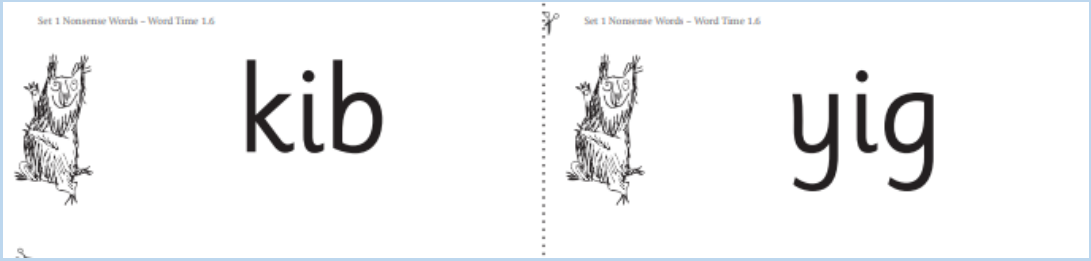
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Nonsense (Alien) Words

# What Are Nonsense (Alien) Words?

- Made-up words that children will not have seen before.
- Used to check pure phonics skills.
- Often shown with an alien picture to reassure children. They are familiar with this from the Read Write Inc. Scheme we use.
- Example:



# How Is the Check Scored?

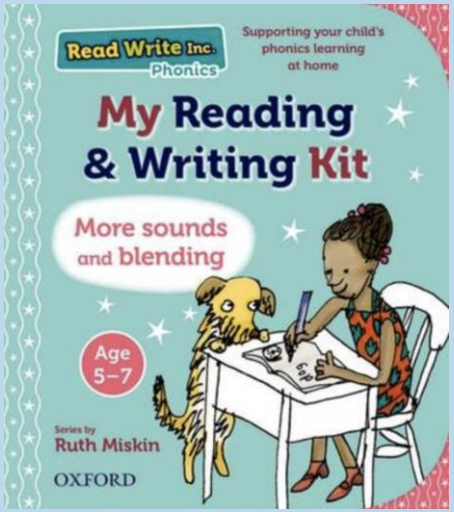
- Each correct word = 1 mark.
- Total score out of 40.
- A pass mark is set nationally each year (usually around 32).
- Results are shared with parents in the end-of-year report.

# How We Prepare Children in School

- Read Write Inc phonics lessons.
- Regular practice with:
    - Speed sounds
    - Blending
    - Reading real and nonsense words
- Mock screening checks carried out gently and positively.

# How Can You Help at Home?

- Read daily with your child.
- Encourage them to:
    - Say the sounds
    - Blend the sounds together




- Practise Read Write Inc sounds and books sent home. You can purchase Set 2/3 flashcards or My Reading and Writing Kit to support your child with Set 2 sounds at home if you wish.
- Keep it positive and relaxed

# How Can You Help at Home?

- On the School Website, you will find some past Phonics Screening Checks.
- You can also find some extra practice.
- You can use these at home to help them feel secure.

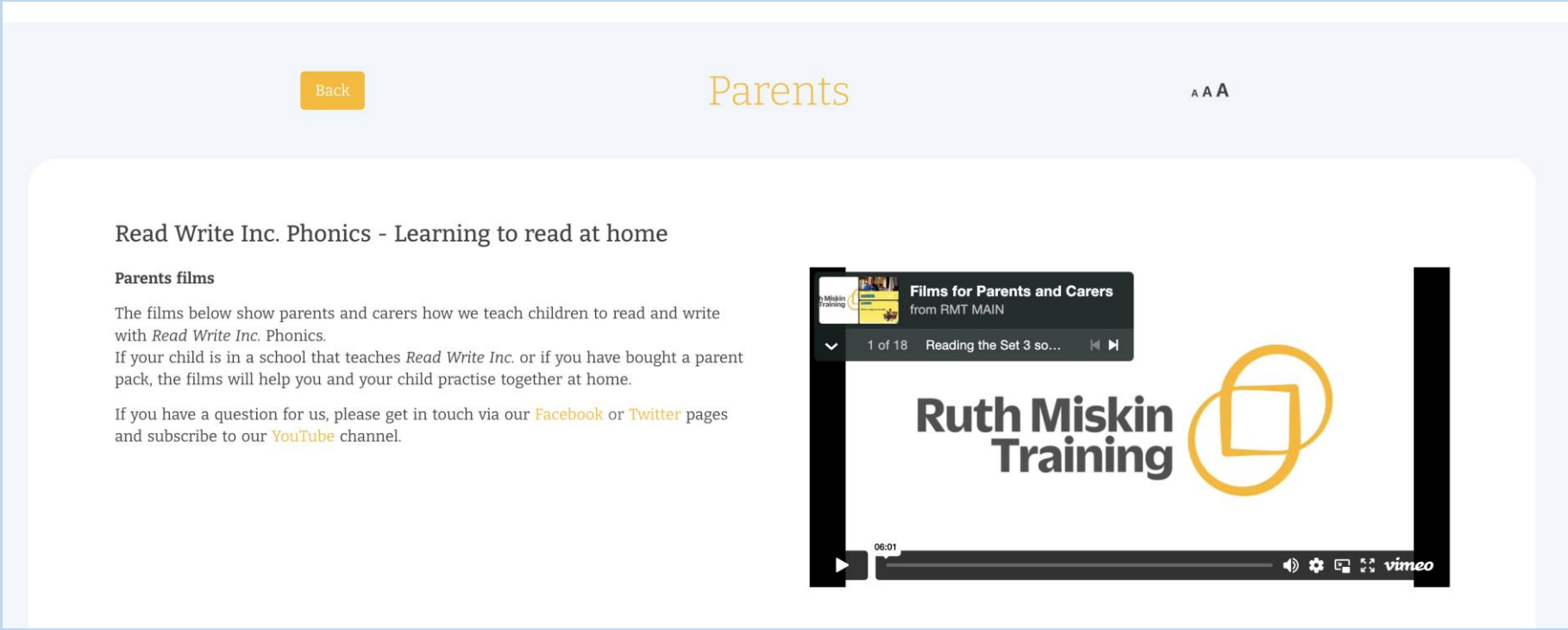
https://www.heathrowprimaryschool.co.uk/phonics-9/

# Virtual Classroom Videos

- Each week, we will send home sound films plus 3-minute 'Special Friends, Fred Talk' Virtual Classroom films.
- Watch these films with your child and help them to practice reading the sounds and words until they can read them speedily.
- The more they practise using these films, the quicker they'll learn to read.



# Free Video Tutorials




(https://www.ruthmiskin.com/parentsandcarers/)

- Watch these video tutorials on the Ruth Miskin website to find out more about Phonics and the PSC.

# Online Resources Available

- Ruth Miskin Parents' Page:

https://www.ruthmiskin.com/parents/

- Ruth Miskin Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/miskin.education

- Free e-books for home reading:

http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/Reading/

# What We Don't Want You To Worry About

- Children do not need to know the words already.
- It is not a test they can 'fail'.
- The check helps us identify children who may need extra support (we teach them one-to-one for a few minutes everyday).

# Supporting Children Emotionally

- We never call it a 'test' with the children.
- Adults are calm, encouraging and familiar.
- Children are praised for effort.
- Most children enjoy showing what they can do

# Questions

- Any questions?
- Thank you for your support.

