

Your Child's Reading Journey at James Dixon

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

- The Phonics Screening Check is a quick check of your child's decoding skills.
- Your child will be asked to read 40 words – 20 are real words, 20 are known as 'alien words' (made-up words).

Your child has now learned most of the Year 1 phonics in *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* and will soon be preparing for the nationally required Phonics Screening Check, which will take place between 8th - 12th June 2026

Why do the children read 'alien words'?

- Reading alien words checks children's decoding skills and knowledge of graphemes in a fair way – it mirrors what the children have to do when they read a word that they have not read before.
- Your child will not have seen the alien words before. They will have to use their knowledge of letters and sounds to work out how to read them.

How does the check work?

- Your child will be asked to read 40 words independently.
- The check has been designed to not put your child under stress. It will be carried out by a member of staff who knows your child well.
- It should only take a few minutes to complete, but there is no time limit.

Do I need to do anything to further support my child?

- Continue to listen to your child read their phonics books and read to them daily.
- Your child's teacher will let you know if any additional practice is needed.
- Always ask if you need any further support!

All for the love of reading

- Teaching children the skills of reading will increase their will to read. Children who love reading, choose to read.
- Reading develops children's vocabulary, understanding of the world and empathy.
- A love of reading is the biggest indicator of future academic success! To develop a love reading, children must have the skills to read, which is why we teach them using phonics.

