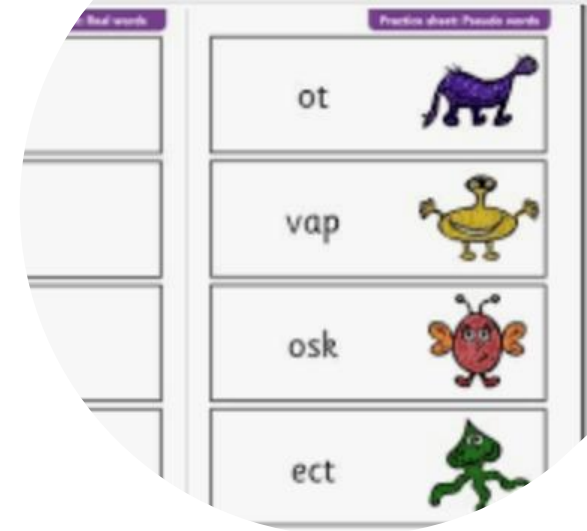


# Phonics

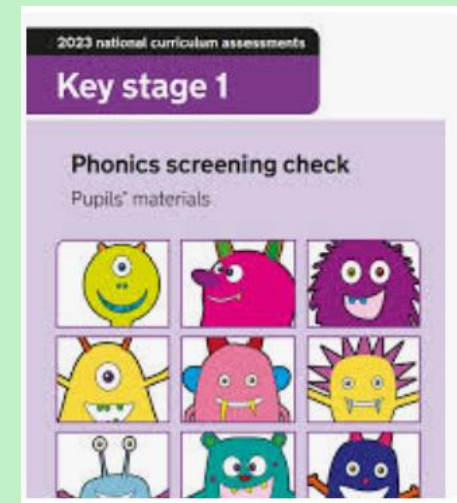


# What is Phonics?

- Phonics is an effective way of teaching children to read.
- Through phonics children are taught how to:
  - recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes
  - identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make - such as 'sh'
  - blend sounds together from left to right to make a word. Children can then use this knowledge to 'decode' new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.

The phonics screening check is a check of your child's phonics knowledge. It helps us confirm whether your child is making the progress expected in the national curriculum.

- The check will take place during the month of June.
- All children who have reached the age of 6 by the end of the school year must take the check during that academic year. This will be in year 1.

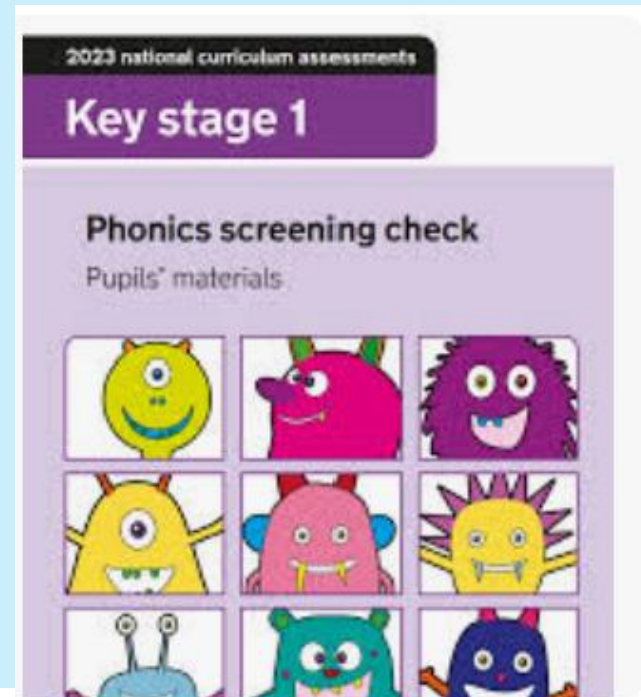
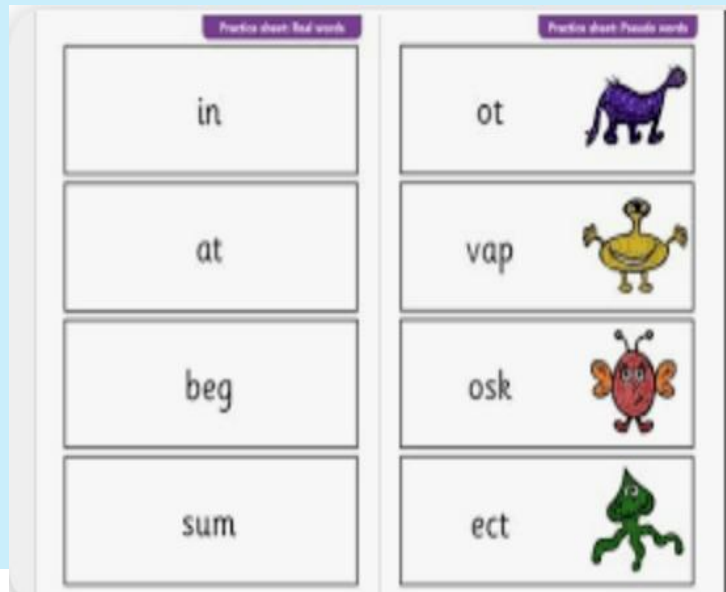


# What is the phonics screening check?

- The phonics screening check contains **40 words** divided into two sections of 20 words.
- Both sections contain a mixture of real words and alien-words.
- Alien-words are words that are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning.
- Alien-words are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using their phonics skills. All alien-words in the check are accompanied by a picture of an imaginary creature.
- Children are taught that when a word has an alien creature next to it, it is a alien-word. This is to ensure that they are not trying to match word to a real word in their vocabulary.
- The check is designed to give teachers information on how your child is progressing in phonics. It will help to identify whether your child needs additional support at this stage so that they do not fall behind in this vital early reading skill.

# What if my child does not reach the standard in year 1?

- If a child does not meet the expected standard at the end of year 1, a programme of support will be put in place and a re-take in year 2 will take place.



# Do I need to do anything to prepare my child for the check?

- Phonics works best when children are given plenty of encouragement and learn to enjoy reading and books.
- Read a book at home with your child every day.
- Ask your child what phoneme they learnt at school each day.
- Encourage your child to read their home reading book every day.
- Praise your child!
- Enjoy books and reading at home with your child.
- Do not tell your child they are going to have a test!