

Welcome to Hamstel Infant School and Nursery



Phonics Screening Check

April 2026

Reading changes everything

Teach a child to read and keep that child reading and we will change everything .

And I mean everything.

Jeanette Winterson



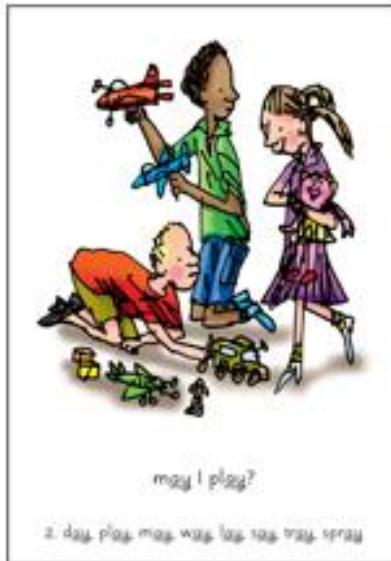
What is the Phonics Screening Check?

- A word-reading test at the end of Year 1 – week beginning 8th June 2026.
- Children read 40 words.
- Children unable to read 32 words, will be given extra support and retake the check in Year 2.
- As soon as spot a child who needs extra practice, we teach them one-to-one for 10 minutes a day.

Picture Phrases

- We use picture phrases to help children remember Set 2 and Set 3 sounds

ay



aw



Special Friends, Fred Talk, read the word

- We practice reading these sounds in words.
- We spot the Special Friends first, then Fred Talk, read the word

spray

crawl

Nonsense words



sheb



glight



ched



teb

- Half of the words in the check are real words.
- Half of the words are nonsense words.

Past Paper examples

Section 1

fod



bep



zat



ult



Section 2

slimp



craint



splet



strave



Past Paper examples

Section 1

chip

hill

jars

shack

Section 2

elbow

tailor

sequins

whirling

What can you do?

1. Practise reading sounds speedily – review, review, review
2. Use Special Friends, Fred Talk, read the word
3. Listen to your child read their storybook/bookbag every day
4. Read stories to your child every day

Online resources available

- Ruth Miskin Parents' Page:

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>

- Free e-books for home reading:

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

Reading feeds the imagination, it expands horizons and offers new and exciting ways of seeing and making sense of our lives and of the world around us.

Michael Morpurgo