

THE PHONICS SCREENING CHECK- A GUIDE FOR YEAR 2 PARENTS

WHAT IS THE PHONICS SCREENING CHECK?

The phonics screening check is a quick and easy check of your child's phonics knowledge. It helps the school confirm whether your child has made the expected progress.

The national phonics screening check was introduced in 2012 to all Year 1 pupils in the country. It is a short, statutory assessment to ensure that children are making sufficient progress in the phonics skills to read words and are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and for learning. As Year 2 were unable to complete the phonics screening check in Year 1 we will be completing them in Autumn 2.

HOW DOES THE SCREENING WORK?

Your child will sit with an adult who is fully phonics trained and they will be asked to read 40 words aloud. The test normally takes a few minutes. If your child is struggling the adult will stop the check. The check is carefully designed not to be stressful for your child.

The check consists of a list of 40 words, half real words and half nonsense words, the nonsense words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This not only makes the check a bit more fun but provides the children with a context for the nonsense word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have.

WHY PSEUDO WORDS/NON-WORDS/NONSENSE WORDS/ALIEN WORDS?

Non-words are important to include as they can't be read using their vocabulary or from memory; they have to use their decoding skills. This is a fair way to assess all children's ability to decode.



AFTER THE CHECK

We are currently determining when we will be able to inform you of your child's progress, however this may not be possible until the summer term. If your child found the test tricky we will inform you of what support we have put in place to help them improve and what you can do at home to help them as well. Children who have not met the standard will retake the check when they are at the end of Year 2.

All children are individuals and all develop at different rates. The screening check ensures that teachers understand which children need extra help with phonic decoding.

HOW CAN YOU HELP YOUR CHILD?

In school, we have been continually checking your children's phonics development within our phonics lesson and mock testing. This screening forms part of our overall assessment procedure.

Use phonics play www.phonicsplay.co.uk. We use this in school daily and you all have the login in to use at home.



We recommend using the Reading Robot game on Phonics play as it has a Year 1 phonics check section. There you will be able to practice words that will be similar to those in the phonics screening check.

We are also sending home extra phonics work, which is optional but is a great chance to do some extra work at home in preparation for the phonics screening.

As always, we thank you for your support.