

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

During the week beginning Monday 10th June all children in Year 1 will be completing the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check.

The Phonics Screening Check is designed to allow schools to assess whether children have made expected progress within their phonics learning and have reached an appropriate standard. It can help us to identify gaps in children's phonics knowledge and gives the school a picture of where children may be excelling or requiring extra support.

The Phonics Screening Check is designed not to be stressful for your child. The children are already familiar with the process of the check and we do not refer to it as a test. The check will take around 10 minutes per child, although children are allowed to work at their own pace and there is no time limit. Each child will sit one-to-one with their class teacher in a quiet space away from the classroom and will be asked to read the 40 words out loud.

The check contains 40 words. Some of these words are real words and some are 'non-words' or 'nonsense words'. Children will be prepared for the fact that some of the words will not be real words and these words are identifiable during the check by having a small image of an alien next to them. These 'non-words' are important because all children will need to use their decoding skills to read them as they will have not been learnt by sight.

The children have been doing really well with learning their phonics sounds knowledge during the year and have become very confident at applying their segmenting and blending skills to read unfamiliar words.

However, the Phonics Screening Check is different to reading a sentence that has context and meaning and it can also cover any of the sounds and spellings that we have been learning in EYFS and Year 1. So we would really appreciate your support over the next few weeks with practising to read a variety of real words and non-words at home.

Our top tips for practising at home:

- Practise a handful of words at a time (not 40 in one go!)
- Practise a mixture of real and non-real words
- Encourage your child to look out for the 2 letters 1 sound hiding in words or 3 letters 1 sound (**might chair**). We encourage them to cover up the other letters so that they can easily spot the 2 letters 1 sound and then recall the sound that those letters represent.
For example: s p r a i n **s p r a i n**
- Remind them to say the sounds and read the word
- Remind to use their 'reading finger' to track the sounds and read the word
- Use www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources free resources games



We will be sending home some words to practise each week in their reading wallets too.

Thank you for your support with this. If you have any questions, please just catch us on the playground.

Many thanks

Miss Hill, Mrs Burton and Mrs Doggett