

10th May 2023

Year One phonics screening check

Dear Parents / Carers

After half term, your child will be asked to read a number of real words and 'alien' words as part of the national phonics screening check for all Year One pupils. There will be a 'Tea and Talk' on the 24th May to answer any questions you may have and provide some further information on this statutory assessment procedure. In the meantime, please read the details provided below.

What is the phonics screening check?

The phonics screening check is a statutory assessment for Year One children. It is designed to check children's phonic knowledge and see how well they can use the skills of 'sounding out' and 'blending' in order to read words accurately.

What will happen during the phonics screening check?

Your child will sit alongside a teacher that is known to them. The teacher will introduce the phonics booklet and there will be an opportunity to practise reading some words together before the assessment begins. Your child will then proceed to independently read the words in the booklet.

How many words are there and how long does it take?

There are 40 words in total. Half of these are real words and half of these are made-up, 'alien words'. The 'alien words' are included to ensure that children can apply their phonic knowledge to any word, whether this be a known word or an unknown word. This means that the test does not favour those who can already read well or those who memorise words. The test should only take about 10 minutes and children can take a break if they need to.

What happens if my child doesn't pass?

Children that don't pass the phonics check will continue to receive the support they need with reading during the school day. They will also have another opportunity to take the test at the end of Year Two.

Will I know if my child has passed?

You will be informed of your child's performance in the phonics screening check during the summer term, alongside additional end of year information that is shared with you.

Should I be revising for the phonics screening check at home?

Your child will be learning all of their sounds and practising reading real and alien words as part of their daily phonics lessons. They may also have additional one to one practise with their teachers. In order to support your child at home, help them to practise their sounds using the flashcards that have been sent home. Ask your child to read their phonics book daily and share a book of your choice.

If you have any further questions, please see your class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Lynch
Assistant Principal KS1