



# Year One Phonics Screening 2019



Welcome back! We hope that you have had a relaxing break and are full of energy for the busy term that Summer always brings! This term we have Phonics Screening coming up. This is a Screening that the Government requires all Year One children to complete. We want to reassure you that it is not something to worry about and give you some tips to help your child prepare.

The Phonics Screening check is a statutory reading check that all Year 1 children take during a particular week in June. The check is designed to assess if each child has reached the age appropriate level of decoding (using phonics to read, sound by sound) by the end of Year 1.

The check is completed 1:1 with the class teacher. There is no time limit and the child completes it in their own time. This means they can also have a break if necessary. The children will have worked on similar words and activities in class and will be familiar with it. The only difference is that the child will have to read the words without any support from the teacher. If a child is really struggling with the sounds, then the teacher can also stop the check.

The check contains 40 words; 20 real and 20 pseudo words (nonsense/alien words). There are 4 words on a page in the booklet and there are images to show which words are nonsense words.



example of Phases 2 and 3 pseudo words



example of Phase 5 real words

The words gradually get more difficult from 2 and 3 'sound' words such as 'it' and 'vap' to longer words with more complex 'sounds', such as the a\_e sound in the word 'same'.

The aim of phonics is that children progress from decoding each sound to automatic recognition and fluent reading. We use pseudo (nonsense) words as there are always unfamiliar words that we come across that we need to decode. Being able to do this will improve your child's confidence and will assist them reading more difficult books.

It is expected that by the end of Year 1, children are able to recognise the grapheme-phoneme correspondence (what a sound looks like) segment words (split into sounds) and blend them (putting sounds together) to read them.

If a child does not meet the expected level, this is nothing to worry about. We will continue to support their phonic learning and then they will complete the check again in Year 2.

You will be informed of your child's result shortly after the check is completed. The data collected from the check is used within school to provide assessment on the child's decoding skills. It is also a requirement that it is submitted to the Department for Education, where it is used to collate information about the standards in phonics across the country.

## How can you help?

The most important thing you can do, to help your child with their reading, is to read to them and read with them. It is just as important for them to hear the modelling of good reading as it is to practise the skills of reading.

Allow them time to decode new words; really give them time before supporting them. Point out the sounds, not the letters, in the words before reading it for them e.g. l – igh – t not l – i – g – h – t and k – ee – p not k – e – e – p.

If you have access, search on the internet for alien words and phonics games. There are loads on there and the children will be familiar with a few.

Read little and often so the children really get used to it and stop when they are restless, tired, or not quite themselves; don't make it a battle!

Thank you for all your ongoing support and please come and talk to your class teacher if you have any questions.