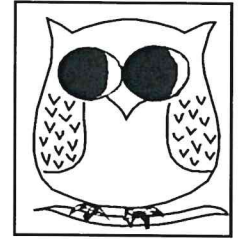


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*"Where A Love of Learning Grows"*

May 2019

Dear Parents

### **NATIONAL PHONICS SCREENING CHECK FOR YEAR 1 PUPILS- Information and Guidance**

During the week beginning Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June, Year 1 children will be taking part in the National Phonics Screening Check.

#### **What is the phonics screening check?**

The national phonics screening test was introduced in 2012 to all Year 1 pupils. It is a short statutory assessment to confirm whether individual pupils have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. It aims to identify the children who need extra help so that they can be given support by school to improve their reading skills. At Upton Snodsbury First School we already identify children and provide early intervention support; however we must comply with the statutory requirement.

#### **Who is it for?**

Year 1 pupils will take the phonics screening check in June.

#### **What is phonics?**

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read. They are taught how to:

- Recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes
- Identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make e.g. sh and oo
- Blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word
- Children can then use this knowledge to segment and blend new words that they hear or see.

#### **How is the check structured?**

It comprises a list of 40 real words and non-words (pseudo words), which a child will read one-to-one with a teacher. Half the words cover phonic skills which are usually covered in Reception, and half the words are based on Year 1 phonic skills.

#### **Is it stressful to test such young children?**

The assessment will be age-appropriate, with children sitting with their teacher and reading one-to-one. It should be an enjoyable activity for children that will take no more than a few minutes and a break will be offered if needed.



**Does a teacher have to carry out the screening check?**

Yes, the class teacher will carry out the check with the pupils in our school.

**Why have you included non-words in the screening check?**

Non-words are an established assessment method of many schools, and are included in many phonics programmes. They are included because they will be new to all pupils, so there won't be a bias to those with a good vocabulary, knowledge or visual memory words. Pupils who read non-words should have the skills to decode almost any unfamiliar word.

**What happens if a child struggles with the screening check?**

The screening check will identify children who have phonic decoding skills below the level expected for the end of Year 1 and who therefore need extra support. Schools are expected to provide extra help and children will then re-take the assessment again in Year 2.

I hope this information has been useful. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need further clarification.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Jones', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Miss B Jones**

**Year 1 Teacher and Phonics Co-ordinator**