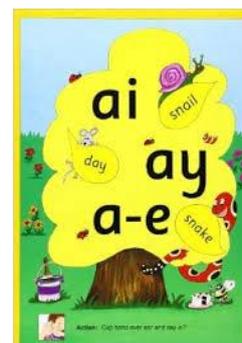


YEAR 1 PHONICS SCREENING CHECK JUNE 2019

INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS



What is the Phonics Screening Check?

The national Phonics Screening Check was introduced in 2012 for all Year 1 pupils. 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.

The check is not about passing or failing but rather checking appropriate progress is being made. Children progress at different speeds so not reaching the threshold score does not necessarily mean there is a serious problem. These children will re-sit the check in Year 2.

Those who do not reach the required level will have additional support to ensure that they are given every opportunity to develop their phonic skills and become good readers.

When is it?

We will be able to administer the check **during the week of the 10th to 14th June 2019**. If a child is absent during that week, the school can administer the check up until Friday 21st June 2019.

How is it structured?

The check consists of a list of 40 words, half real words and half 'nonsense' words. The nonsense words are there to check whether your child can tackle a word that he/she has never come across before. These words will be shown with a picture of an alien so the child understands that they are not trying to read a 'real' word from their known vocabulary. Children who can read 'non-words' will have the skills to decode almost any unfamiliar word.

Is it stressful to test such young children?

The assessment is age-appropriate and will not feel like a test. Your child will sit in a quiet area with a teacher and read the words. It should take no more than 10 to 15 minutes, but there is no time limit. If the teacher feels your child has done as much as they can, they will stop the assessment.

How will the results from the phonics screening check be used?

We have to inform parents towards the end of the summer term in Year 1 of their child's results. We will let you know, in our end of year report, how your child did and if there is anything you need to do to help them improve their phonic skills. If your child does not reach the expected level, we will tell you what provision we are going to be making at the end of Year 1 and going into Year 2 to help them.

What happens if my child struggles with the screening check?

We will provide extra help at the end of Year 1 and into Year 2 and some children will re-take the assessment in June 2020, when they are in Year 2.

How can I help my child?

In school we are continually checking your child's phonic development and assessing their reading skills. This screening check forms part of our overall assessment procedure. However, there are a number of things that you can do to support early reading skill development:

- Let your child see you enjoying reading yourself - they are influenced by you and what you value!
- Share books and magazines with your child; take them to the library to choose books; read to them regularly and encourage them to read things in the world around them
- Make time for your child to read school books to you regularly - encourage them to talk about the book they are reading and check they have understood it
- Communicate with the teacher through the reading record
- Use Phonics Play www.phonicsplay.co.uk. This is a website which is packed with interactive phonics games to help children to learn to hear sounds and blend them. We use this in school and some aspects of it are free to use at home
- Help your child to practise reading the non-words

