

16th September 2025

Year 3 Dyslexia Screening

Dear Parents and Friends of Castle Hill,

You may have seen reports in the media of a method of checking whether a child would benefit from extra help in the early stages of learning to read. The assessment is known as the Dyslexia Early Screening Test (DEST-2), and we plan to use it alongside other baseline assessments that are usually carried out at the beginning of Year 3 for all pupils.

The DEST-2 is a screen **not a formal test** and each part of the DEST-2 is designed to be fun and not at all stressful. It takes about half an hour per child and has four sections which cover a range of early skills, including the child's knowledge, language skills, speed, balance and hand-eye skills. By looking at a range of skills we find strengths as well as weaknesses, and this can be very helpful when considering how to help your child learn as well as possible. From the results of the screening, we can check whether your child might have subtle hearing problems, or difficulties hearing rhymes. These difficulties can make it harder to learn to read.

The short tests included also allow us to check whether your child is likely to be dyslexic. If there is any history of difficulties in learning to read in your immediate family (yourself, your spouse, your child's brothers or sisters) it would be helpful if you could note this down at the bottom of the form.

Please complete the attached form by **Friday 26th September** as we are aiming to begin the screenings in October.

GREENBANK: <https://forms.gle/JwnG44vGvJgT1T388>

ROOKSDOWN: <https://forms.gle/gCCT3cdKBdvfjDhTA>

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,

The SEN Team

Mrs Lund, Miss Mould and Mrs Cook