



Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April

### Year 1 Parent Information Evening

Dear parents and carers,

We would like to invite you to a short Information Evening and Workshop on **Thursday 8th May at 4:30pm**, where we will be discussing key aspects of your child's learning in Year 1, including the upcoming phonics screening check.

During this session, we will give you some information, including how you can support your child at home, on the following subjects:

- **The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check:** We will explain what the check involves, how it is administered, and how you can best support your child in preparing for it at home. (Additional information is attached.)
- **An Overview of the Year 1 Maths Curriculum:** We will share some of the key concepts your child will be learning, as well as practical strategies and fun activities you can use at home to reinforce their learning. This is particularly important to support the upcoming transition to Year 2.
- **High Performance Learning (HPL):** We are excited to share how we are implementing our Values Curriculum and HPL to help children develop skills such as resilience, collaboration, and creative thinking—supporting them to become confident, independent learners.
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The session will last approximately **30–40 minutes**, and there will be time at the end for any questions you may have. The meeting will take place in the school hall. Please enter via the community entrance.

We really hope you can join us for this session. Your support at home makes a huge difference to your child's progress, and we look forward to working in partnership with you. If you have any questions, please contact your child's class teacher.

Kind regards,  
Alison Cleary  
Teacher and Year 1 Lead



## **The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check**

We are getting closer to the date that we will be having our phonics screening check (after half-term break, week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> June). We have been working extremely hard in school and at home on our phonics and we are super proud of all the progress that we have made. Please read the following information about the screening. We have included a copy of a previous year's paper for you to have a look at and to practise at home. The children have been encouraged to use the phrase 'Special Friend' (ar), 'Fred Talk' (they sound out all the sounds), 'Read the Word' (they read the word).

### **What is the Phonics Screening Check?**

Children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the same week in June. Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when in Year 1 or if they have not taken the test before. The Head teacher should decide whether it is appropriate for each of their pupils to take the phonics screening check. The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt sufficient phonic decoding and blending skills.

### **What happens during the test?**

The test contains 40 words. Each child sits one to one and reads each word aloud to their teacher. The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child, although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace (no time limit). The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words). The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This provides the children with a context for the pseudo word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have. Pseudo words are included because they will be new to all pupils; they do not favour children with a good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words.

### **Reporting to Parents**

By the end of the summer term schools must report results of the check to parents. They will also confirm if the child has met the standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in Year 2.

### **How are the results used?**

Results from the check will be used by schools to analyse their own performance and for Ofsted to use in inspections.

### **How can I help my child at home?**

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise - get them to have a 'good guess'.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each letter, e.g. /c/ in cat, or the letter group, e.g. /ng/ in sing. Next move your finger under the whole word as you say it.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.