



# YEAR 1 PHONICS SCREENING CHECK

Parents Talk  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January

# WHAT IS PHONICS?

- The children have been learning phonics (sounds) throughout their time at school
- Children need to be able to say single letter sounds, digraphs and trigraphs and be able to blend these together to read words
- Children can then segment these sounds (break them up) in order to write or read unfamiliar words
- Children are taught to read by breaking down words 'graphemes' into separate sounds or 'phonemes'. They are then taught how to blend these sounds together to hear and read the whole word
- The children have 5 40-minute phonics sessions a week, but we are constantly focusing on phonics within all subjects
- There are 40+ different sounds to learn

# THE SOUNDS

Vowel sounds

a	e ea	i	o	u	ay ā-e ai	ee y ea e	igh ī-e ie i y	ow ō-e oa o
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oo ū-e ue ew	oo	ar	or oor ore aw au	air are	ir ur er	ou ow	oy oi	ire	ear	ure
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Consonant sounds

f ff ph	l ll le	m mm mb	n nn kn	r rr wr	s ss se c ce	v ve	z zz s se	sh ti ci	th	ng nk
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b bb	c k ck ch	d dd	g gg	h	j g ge dge	p pp	qu	t tt	w wh	x	y	ch tch
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# WHAT IS THE PHONICS SCREENING CHECK?

- Every child in Year 1 in the country will be taking the statutory phonics check
- The check is very similar to the activities we do during phonics sessions, so it will not be a massive change for the children
- The focus of the check is to ensure that all children can read and write by the end of Year 2, to confirm whether individual children have learnt sufficient phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard
- It acts as a screening (mid point check) to provide evidence and to help teachers plan for the end of Year 2/KS1. Children who don't achieve the standard will be supported throughout Year 2 and will re-take the test at the end of next year

# WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE CHECK?

- The check will take between 5 and 10 minutes to complete
- The children will be asked to 'sound out' and word, blend those sounds together and they say the word as a whole
- The check will consist of 40 words- 20 real words and 20 nonsense or alien words
- The children will be told if the word they need to read is real or alien but the corresponding alien image
- The children are used to this process as it is similar to what we already do in class phonics sessions

# REAL WORDS

in

at

beg

sum

# NONSENSE WORDS

- Nonsense or alien words are words that are not real
- They are included in the screening to ensure that children are able to use their phonetic knowledge to read unfamiliar words, and not just read by sight
- They will be signified by the alien picture next to the word

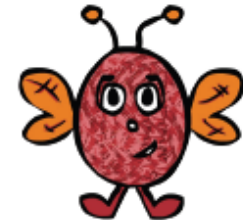
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# HOW AND WHEN WILL IT BE ADMINISTERED?

- The check will take place during the week beginning **8<sup>th</sup> June 2026**
- The screening will be conducted by myself one to one in a quiet part of the school
- The children are familiar with this routine from assessments that we undertake half termly.
- We will encourage the children to look carefully and have a go but we are not permitted to indicate to the children at the time whether they have correctly sounded out and/or blended the word

## Screening check: answer sheet

First name	
Last name	

**Screening check responses:** Please tick the appropriate box for each word. The use of the comment box is optional.

Section 1				Section 2			
Word	Correct	Incorrect	Comment	Word	Correct	Incorrect	Comment
dat				tay			
cag				sloam			
rin				zued			
ept				meve			
jash				clend			
quib				braits			
coid				scrug			
quass				splue			
glog				high			
blard				feast			
disp				goal			
murbs				shape			
chum				trunk			
kick				groups			
reef				straw			
short				scribe			
blot				model			
greet				person			
dust				chapter			
parks				reptiles			

Total correct



# REPORTING TO PARENTS

- The children will be scored against the national standard (determined by the DfE. We do not know this mark until after the test when all results have been submitted. The mark is usually around 32-33
- We will inform you of your child's results in the summer term
- If your child's score falls below the national standard they will be supported and will complete the screening again at the end of year 2

# HOW CAN YOU HELP...

- Encourage your child to use their phonics to sound out unfamiliar words
- Revisit words/sounds that you notice your child may find tricky
- Read at home and enjoy reading- it doesn't matter what they read...
- Ask questions about the text your child is reading (comprehension)
- Play sound and listening games
- Use pure sounds and Fred fingers to segment and blend
- Go on sound or letter hunts around the house
- Sensory spelling/writing- write sounds in sand, paint, make out of toys