



# Phonics Screening Check

## A guide for parents

## Phonics Screening Check

The phonics screening check is a statutory requirement to assess whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate level. All Year 1 children will take part in this check.

It only takes 10 minutes, or less and is administered by a teacher they are familiar with.

The check will take place at some point during the week being **12<sup>th</sup> June 2017**.

The check involves your child blending and reading 20 real words and 20 non-words (alien words).

During the check the children will put sound buttons underneath the words, to help them identify phonemes and digraphs (friendly sounds) within the word. They will then blend these together and say the complete word.

To help the children to identify which words are real and which are not, the non-words will have a picture of an alien next to them.

The children are used to blending words and using sound buttons, so this check will be nothing new to them.

We are not allowed to help or prompt your child in anyway and we have to take the last answer they give. We do however record what they say for each word and use this information to inform our planning.

We will not know in advance what the words will be and the pass mark will be announced after all schools have completed the check. In previous year the pass mark has been 32/40.

If your child does not pass, they will be given extra support during Year 2 and will retake the check in June 2018.

### How to help your child at home

The expectation by the end of Year One is for all children to know all the phonemes (sounds) and digraphs (friendly sounds) attached at the back of this leaflet.

They need to be able to blend these sounds in order to read real and non-words. The children need to be able to blend CVC (consonant vowel consonant), VCC, CCVC, CCVCC and CCCVCC words. Along with compound words, which are words made up of two real words put together e.g. cupcake, flowerpot, bookcase.

During our phonics sessions we are working on all these aspects, but extra reinforcement at home would really benefit your child.

We have found over the past few years that there are certain aspects of the check that some children have found tricky. They often include words which begin or end with a **b** or **d**. Children often confuse these two phonemes, as they look so similar. It would help if your child practises

identifying **b's** and **d's**, so they can confidently identify them within words when blending.

We have also found that they try and confuse the children by putting two sounds together, which if reversed, would make a digraph (friendly sound) e.g. **ro**. The children may recognise this as '**or**'. Again, we practise this within our sessions, identifying the 'look a likes.'

To help you support your child at home we have attached:-

- A copy of all the phonemes (sounds) and digraphs (friendly sounds) they will need to know. Remember that **ue**, **ew**, **u-e** make two sounds **oo** and **yoo**.
- A **b** and **d** sheet to practise reading.
- A mixture of real words that your child can practise blending with you at home.
- Non-words to practise blending, with alien pictures.
- Useful phonics websites your child might like to explore.

Please do not worry about the Phonic Screening Check - the children will not even know they are doing it!

Mrs Mishka Ball (Assistant SENCO and Phonics Co-ordinator)

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## **Useful Websites**

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/>

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-2-games.html>

<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/phonics/sandcastle/flash/game.shtm>

[http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics\\_games.html](http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html)