

Phonics Screening Check

Autumn 2020



What is a 'Phonics Screening Check'?

- It is a statutory check of children's phonics knowledge that every Year 1 child in the country is required to complete. The check usually takes place in the Summer Term, however due to school closures this year, these could not take place as they usually would. The Government has requested that every Year 2 child now takes part in the check during the second part of Autumn Term.
- It will take place in school during the week commencing 30th November. If your child does not meet the required standard then they will retake the check in the Summer Term.

What is Phonics?

- It is a way of teaching children to read skilfully.
- Children are taught how to recognise phonemes (sounds) that each individual letter makes and identify the sounds that different combinations of letters (graphemes) make e.g. 'oo', 'sh', 'air' etc.
- Digraph – 2 letters that make 1 sound **cow**
- Trigraph – 3 letters that make 1 sound **night**
- Split digraph – 2 vowels (a-e-i-o-u) with a consonant in between

spine

What is Phonics?

- They are then taught how to blend these phonemes together to read the whole word. E.g. p-l-**ay** → play
- Children can then use their phonic knowledge to 'decode' unfamiliar words.
- In school children have daily discrete phonics teaching following the National Curriculum and Song of Sounds programme. Some children may also take part in small, focused intervention groups to help support them with their learning.

What will the check comprise of?

- The check will consist of reading 40 words and non-words (pseudo words)
- The children will be asked to 'sound out' a word and blend the sounds together. e.g. st-ar-t
- Children will be told if the word is a real or 'alien' (pseudo) word. The pseudo word will be put into context by having a corresponding alien image. The children will be asked to read the alien's name.
- The children **MUST** sound out the correct phonemes and blend together whichever graphemes form that particular word.

Examples of words

- Real word examples:

model

person

chapter

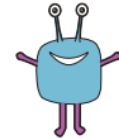
reptiles

- Pseudo word examples:

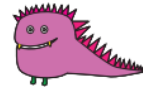
clend



braits



scrug



splue



How will it be administered?

- With a familiar adult.
- In a quiet area of the school.
- We are not permitted to indicate to the children at the time whether they have correctly sounded out and/ or blended the word.
- There is no time limit and the test is designed not to be stressful for the children.
- Previous pass threshold has been 32 out of 40.

Examples of the screening check

Watch the following video to see examples of the screening check:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPJ_ZEBh1Bk

How can you help?

- Use online games on www.phonicsplay.co.uk and www.lettersandsounds.co.uk to read real and pseudo words.
- Completing phonics based homework with your child



How can you help?

- Remember that phonics is not the only thing needed to become a fluent reader.
- Please continue to read with your child each night and encourage them to:
- Sound out
- Re-read to check it makes sense
- Use pictures for clues
- Ask questions about the book
- And most importantly, enjoy reading!

And the results...?

- The results of each check will be sent to the Local Authority. Each Local Authority will then submit the results to the Department for Education.
- We will inform you of whether your child has met the national standard by Christmas.
- Children's reading develops at different rates and if your child's score does not meet the pass threshold then they will retake the check in the Summer Term.

Any questions?

- If you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact me. The best way to do this is via Tapestry.
- Please remember that we conduct the check in a relaxed environment, and often children will not realise that they have taken a test!