

Friday 29th April 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you about the National Phonics Screening Test, which will take place in Year 1 during the **week beginning 6th June 2022**. This letter aims to explain this process, in addition to providing you with ideas to help your child with phonics at home.

Who takes the test? All children in year 1. In addition, any child in year 2 who did not reach the required level when they took the test in year 1 will take the test again in year 2. If for any reason, we feel that there is a valid reason why your child should not take the test in Year 1, we will discuss this with you. Please note, this is only done in exceptional circumstances and your child would still be eligible to take the retake when they are in Year 2.

What is the phonics screening check? As you may have already heard, the government has a statutory requirement for all children in Year 1 across the country, to take a phonics screening check in June. This will help further inform our continual assessment of the children's phonic knowledge and the results of the check will be shared with you later in the Summer term.

It comprises of a list of 40 words that children read one-to-one with a teacher. The children will not be put under any pressure and will be used to reading these types of words as we regularly do so in our daily phonics' sessions.

The list is a combination of both real and made up, 'nonsense' words that rely purely on using phonics skills to decode and read. The fake words will be shown alongside a picture of an imaginary creature to help them. E.g. words such as 'jound' 'freap' etc.

Helping your child with phonics Phonics works best when children are given plenty of encouragement and learn to enjoy reading for both purpose and pleasure. It is important to work together to help support children to achieve their very best. As you are aware, learning takes place at home as well as in the classroom and we value the vital role that parents play in helping children with learning. Some simple steps to help with phonics at home:

Step 1 - recognise all phase 3 and phase 5 sounds by saying them in isolation.

Step 2 - Read a range of words using these familiar sounds by orally segmenting e.g. t-r-ai-n , e-n-j-oy etc.

Step 3 - read the word (blend sounds together)

What can I do at home to help my child?

- Use the sound chart provided to practise all your familiar phase 3 and phase 5 sounds and regularly test your child. Say the mnemonic/phrase that matches the sound if it helps e.g. the sound is 'ay' the phrase is 'play all day'.
- Choose some trickier sounds to focus on that your child might not be as confident with (Particularly phase 5 sounds).
- Read a range of real words and nonsense words

- Make up nonsense words and ask your child to read. Then ask your child to make up a nonsense word for you to read.
- With all reading books, encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend the sounds together from left to right rather than looking at the pictures to guess. Once your child has read an unfamiliar word you can talk about what it means and help him or her to follow the story.
- Try to make time to read with your child every day. Grandparents and older brothers or sisters can help, too. Encourage your child to blend the sounds all the way through a word.
- Read the example past paper check (included). Then try some past papers which can be found online: <https://www.primarytools.co.uk/phonics-check-year-1-and-year-2/>
- Word games and online games to help familiarise more with the concept-

Please use the phonics play website to play the games linked below. Focus on Phase 3, 4 and particularly phase 5 games. Please note, that the school pay for our subscription to this site so it should not be shared with others.

User: seaton

Password: apple123

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/5/dragons-den>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/5/buried-treasure>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/5/picnic-on-pluto>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/5/reading-robot>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via Tapestry and I will be happy to help. Resources will be provided on Tapestry. Please look out for Phonics homework tasks on Tapestry, as this will be our focus this half term in preparation for June. If you are currently unable to access Tapestry please see me and I will be happy to assist.

Many Thanks and Best Wishes,

Maddy Derrick

Year 1 Teacher