



April 2022

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, all pupils in Year 1 must take the Phonics Screening Check in June. The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether pupils have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. It will identify pupils who need extra help to improve their decoding skills. The check consists of 20 real words and 20 pseudo-words (nonsense words) that pupils read aloud to the check administrator.

Pupils need to read at least 32 of the words accurately to pass the screening check. Pupils will need to use the sounds which they have been taught in phonics to read the words. They can sound each word out and blend the sounds together to read the word or read the word straight away if they recognise it as a familiar word.

Children are taught to decode pseudo (nonsense) words so that they have the skills to decode and read words which are unfamiliar to them or that they may not have heard of before.

We recently conducted a MOCK Phonics Screening Check on Year 1 pupils. As a result of this, we will be using the next half term to focus most phonics teaching and learning on preparation for the phonics screening. We found that lots of children found words with split digraphs, e.g. **a-e** as in *make* or **o-e** as in *home*, tricky to read. We also noticed that some of the less common digraphs such as **ew** as in *few* or **au** as in *launch* were catching children out too. Pupils particularly found the nonsense words challenging to blend.

Teachers will be sending lists of real and nonsense words home for children to practise decoding and reading. Children do not need to learn or memorise these words. They will not be the same words as in the June screening, they are for reading practise only. We will also share links via ClassDojo to online resources which can support screening practise at home. We would like to ask that you please help your child by practising using these resources at home, as well as reading their reading book as usual.

The Phonics Screening Check will be completed the week commencing Monday 6th June. It is statutory for all schools to deliver this check to Year 1 pupils.

If you would like to know the exact mark your child scored in the mock screening, please ask your child's class teacher. Please also speak to Miss Owen, or your child's class teacher, if you have any questions regarding the screening.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Owen, Miss Parsons and Miss Hand