Wednesday 1st May 2019

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check - June 2019

All the children in Year 1 will be taking the national Phonics Screening Check in June.

The Phonic Screening Check is designed to show how well your child can use the phonics skills they’ve learned up to the end of Year 1. It also identifies children who may need additional phonics help. The Department for Education defines the checks as ‘short, light-touch assessments’ that take about four to nine minutes to complete.

Your child has been taught a variety of phonics (phonemes, digraph, split diagraphs and trigraphs) during daily phonics lessons. Once a child has learnt the 26 letters of the alphabet with their 44 sounds and 70 common spellings they then have the ‘tools’ they need to decode and read words.

Daily phonics activities help children to improve their spellings accuracy and give them the confidence to sound out and spell difficult words.

What’s in the checks?

The checks consist of 40 words and non-words (made up, pseudo words, we also call them ‘alien words’ as they have a picture of an alien next to them in the check) that your child will be asked to read individually with their teacher. Non-words are a collection of letters that will follow phonics rules your child has been taught, but don’t mean anything – your child will need to read these with the correct sounds to show that they understand the phonics rules behind them. Examples are on the reverse of this letter.

You can download a sample Year 1 Phonics Screening Check from the Department for Education website to get an idea of what your child will be asked to do:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/299970/phonics\_screening\_check\_sample\_materials\_-\_Answer\_sheet.pdf

When is it?

We will administer the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check between the 10th and 14th of June.

Does my child have to take it?

Yes – all children in Year 1 must take the Phonics Screening Check.

What will my child’s score mean?

Your child will be scored against a national standard. They can be judged as above, below or border line and the main result will be whether or not they fall below, within or above this standard. If your child’s score falls below the standard, they will be given extra phonics help and can re-take the Phonics Screening Check in Year 2.

How can I help my child prepare?

Your child will have enjoyed fun phonics activities in class which will have prepared them for the screening check. However, your child will benefit from some additional activities at home to supplement those taught in class. Please remember to keep the sessions short and frequent, rather than one very long session. The sessions at home should be fun – for example, your child may be the “Teacher” and teach their sounds to a cuddly toy or younger sibling!

Please remember to encourage and praise your child. In teaching and learning phonics in this way, the aim is to improve reading and writing in young children. We also aim to promote a life-long love of reading in all children.

As always, the very best support you can provide your child is to listen to them read regularly at home.

Suggested activities at home

• Playing phonics games on the computer such as Phase 3, 4 5 or 6 activities on the Letters and Sounds website:

www.letters-and-sounds.com

 Pirate treasure, Poop deck pirates, Dragon egg game, etc.

• www.phonicsplay.co.uk/ the children love picnic on Pluto and buried treasure in the phase 5 section.

• You could play bingo or domino games using the target phonics blends such as str, scr, spl, st, or sounds such as ch, sh, igh, oa, ay, ee, oo, or, ng

• Read a selection of books and be “sound detectives” hunting for the phonemes (Can you hunt for the word with the ‘ea’ sound in this sentence?)

• Share some e-book stories from Oxford Reading Tree E-books for free:

 www.oxfordowl.co.uk

Here are some examples of real and nonsense words from last year’s Phonics Screening Check:

 Real word- brighter pseudo/alien word –stribe

There will be a meeting after school on Monday 13th May 2019 in order to share further information and to demonstrate samples of the words children will be reading.

We look forward to seeing you then,

Mrs M Cronshaw Miss M Bayley

Year 1 Teachers