

Year 2 Phonics Screening Test

Dear Parents,

As you will be aware, under normal circumstances, the children would have taken their Phonics screening test back in June. Obviously, this could not happen, and the test was postponed until the second half of the Autumn term, when all children will be back in school. As a result, the test will now be administered after the October half term, during the week beginning 16th November.

Mrs Mockler will take the children one at a time to read through a booklet with a mix of real and pseudo words. The pseudo words will have a picture of an alien next to them and the real words will have no picture. The children will have as much time as they like to read though the words and will be able to draw the sound buttons under the words to help decode the sounds if this helps them.

The children have had plenty of practice reading through real and pseudo words in Year 1 and they have also had a practice test in Year 2 already, so this Phonics Screening Test should not feel daunting to them. Mrs Mockler will make the children feel as relaxed as possible and hopefully they won't even be aware that they will be taking a test at all. Your child's well-being is the most important thing to us. If your child struggles through the test, we can stop half way through and continue another day if necessary.

If your child doesn't achieve the expected standard in the test in November, they will be able to retake it in June. We are obviously very happy to give you your child's phonics screening test result should you wish, once the tests have been completed.

We will have lots of phonics practice in class, but if you wish to help your child prepare at home, we will send home a mix of real and pseudo words that they can practise reading to you over half term. There are also lots of previous year's phonics tests available online if you wish to see some examples: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phonics-screening-check-sample-materials-and-training-video>

If you have any questions at all please get in touch.

Kind regards,

Mrs Mockler and Mrs Pattanshetti

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What is Phonics?

Children begin to learn phonics (sounds) in Early Years both Nursery and Reception. Once children begin learning sounds, these sounds are used orally to identify and make words. They will then begin to learn the letters which make each of the sounds and these are used to read and spell words.

For this reason, the first initial sounds that are taught are 's', 'a', 't', 'p', 'i', 'n'. These can immediately be blended for reading to make simple CVC words (consonant, vowel, consonant) e.g. sat, pin. Children then develop segmenting for writing skills; breaking the word into sounds to spell it out.

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

Children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the same week in June. Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when in Year 1 or they have not taken the test before.

Headteachers should decide whether it is appropriate for each of their pupils to take the phonics screening check. The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.

What Happens During the Screening?

The test contains 40 words. Each child will sit one-to-one and read each word aloud to a teacher. The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child, although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace. The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words).

Pseudo Words (Nonsense Words)

The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This provides the children with a context for the pseudo word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have. Pseudo words are included because they will be new to all pupils; they do not favour children with a good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words.



How Are the Results Used?

Results from the check will be used by schools to analyse their own performance and for Ofsted to use in inspections.

“ Read as much as possible to and with your child. ”

How Can I Help My Child at Home?

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise – get them to have a 'good guess'.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each one, e.g. /c/ in cat, /p/ in pat, /ng/ in sing, /ee/ in been.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.