

Thursday 5th June

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

From the week beginning Monday 9th June, the children in Year 1 will complete their Phonics Screening Check. Schools have been directed to administer the check during a one-week window, so all children will have completed the check by Friday 13th June. A timetable has been organised around existing school events so the children will not miss out on anything and will only come out of class for a few minutes to complete the check.

There is nothing you need to do to prepare the children for the check (they have been well prepared in school through their regular phonics teaching) but do try and stick to your normal family routines and make sure the children go to bed on time throughout the check window!

The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether pupils have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard for this point in Year 1. The check consists of 20 real words and 20 pseudo-words that pupils read aloud. The children are familiar with the format of the check and have practiced reading pseudo-words (or made up / 'alien') words before.

The children complete the check on a 1:1 basis with Miss Hope or Mrs Ford. Some children take around four minutes and others may take up to about nine minutes. The checks are done in a very relaxed way, with no pressure or stress placed on the children; it just feels like another part of their phonics lesson with their teacher.

The 'pass' mark in the check is typically 32 out of 40 but this can change slightly each year. If a child does not achieve 32 this time around, then they get another chance next June when they have had further teaching and practice. We will notify you of the outcome of your child's check by letter at the end of July with their school report.

Please feel free to speak to me, Miss Hope or Mrs Ford if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Rob Cole
(Headteacher)

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