

**Phonics Screening Check for Children Currently in Year 2.**

Wednesday 30th September 2020

Dear Parents/Legal Guardians,

As your child has missed the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check due to COVID the DfE has requested that they sit this within the second half of Autumn term. The Phonics Screening is designed to check whether children have learnt the correct phonic decoding and blending skills. We will use the results from this test to further their learning and address any misconceptions that they have.

The Phonics Screening Check contains 40 words; each child will sit one-to-one with a teacher and read the words aloud. The Check consists of 20 real words and 20 alien (nonsense) words. Alien words have an alien picture beside them. Alien words are included because they are new to all children and can be de-coded phonetically. They may not favour children who may appear to have a good vocabulary or visual memory of words. Therefore, some children may struggle with the concept of alien words and replace these with real ones which sound the same or are spelt differently; this is why it is important for children to practise these.

To enable the children to catch up on skills missed due to school closures last term and to prepare your child for this check we have developed additional phonics sessions in the daily timetable at school for this term.

To help support us phonics packs will be sent home with your child for you to use.

Please be reassured that safety precautions have been put in place with staff sanitising their hands before and after handling the packs. You may, however, wish to quarantine these further when they return home.

They will include flash cards of real, alien and tricky (red) words. When using the flash cards, if your child is struggling, it is important to encourage them to look for any special friends (ay, ee, oo, a-e etc) then sound the word out from left to right before blending it. Reading with your child as well will also aid their phonics knowledge. Websites such as <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/> and <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources> have a variety of games and words for children to access.

Please try where possible to practise 10-15mins each night. This will have a huge impact on their learning and help to reinforce what they have learnt in class. Thank you for taking the time to practise phonics with your child. If you have any questions about the packs or the phonics screening, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Your support is much appreciated.

Kind regards,

Amy Armstrong - Class One Teacher

Erin Fletcher - Literacy Co-ordinator.