**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.

The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt sufficient phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.

***What Happens During the Check?***

The check contains 40 words. Each child will sit one to one and read each word aloud to a teacher. The check 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.

***Reporting to Parents***

By the end of the summer term we will report your child’s results to you via their school report.

**How can I help my child at home?**

- By reading as much as possible with and to your child

- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound from left to right

- Blend the sounds by pointing to each letter, e.g. /c/ in cat, or the letter group, e.g. /ng in sing. Next move your finger under the whole word as you say it.

- Write real and pseudo words down in different colours, in a ‘silly sentence’ or as part of a story

- Visit helpful phonics websites and see previous phonics screening past papers (which are available to view online)

**Helpful websites (Phase 3 – 5)**

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/ParentsMenu.htm> - free games on the parent section of the website. Please explore phase 3 – 5 resources.

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com/> - some free games

<https://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/literacy.html> – quite a few games that are free

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds> – lots of games to explore!

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-3-games.html> – a great resource!