

Year One Phonics Screening Check

Tuesday 23th April 2024

Parent Support Meeting

What is Phonics?

Children begin to learn phonics (Sounds) in Nursery and Reception. Once children begin learning sounds, they can use this knowledge to read and spell words. Children can then see the purpose of learning sounds.

Children start with 'The Basics 2' – initial sounds (s a t p i n etc). These can immediately be blended to make simple CVC (consonant, vowel consonant) words. For example, sat, pin, pat, tin. Once the children can read, they will then develop segmenting for breaking the word into sounds to spell it out.

The Basics 3 - The Basics 3 teaches children the spellings for the further 26 of the 44 sounds of the English language.

The Basics 4 – Teaches the children to blend adjacent consonants.

Higher Levels 5 - Choose to Use Spellings teaches children the concept that there are more than one spelling for a sound that they can hear in a word.

Vocabulary

Phoneme - The smallest unit of sound. There are approximately 44 phonemes in English (it depends on different accents). Phonemes can be put together to make words.

Grapheme - A way of writing down a phoneme. Graphemes can be made up from 1 letter e.g. p, 2 letters e.g. sh, 3 letters e.g. tch or 4 letters e.g. ough.

Digraph- Two letters representing one sound. (ou)

Trigraph- Three letters representing one sound. (igh)

Please see the Phonics page on the school website for other definitions of key vocabulary.

What is The Phonics Screening Check?

W/C: 10th June 2024

Children on Year One throughout the country will be taking part in the phonics screening check during the same week in June. Head teachers will decide whether it is appropriate for each of their pupils to take the check.

It 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.
(20 real and 20 pseudo)

Each child will sit one to one and read each word aloud to their teacher.

This takes approximately 5 – 10 minutes per child.
All children are different and can complete the check at their own pace.

Support CANNOT be given by the teacher.

Pseudo Words

These are words given with a picture of an alien. This provides the children with a context for the word which is independent from any existing vocabulary knowledge they may have.

Pseudo words are included because they will be new to all pupils and do not favour children with a good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words.

Example

beg

twinkl.co.uk

at

twinkl.co.uk

sum

twinkl.co.uk

in

twinkl.co.uk

vap 

twinkl.co.uk

osk 

twinkl.co.uk

ot 

twinkl.co.uk

ect 

twinkl.co.uk

Reporting to Parents

The children are not told their results.

We communicate the children's results on the End of Year report. This will state their score and whether they have met the standard or not yet met the standard.

Children who do not achieve the standard will retake the Phonics Screening Check in Year 2 and will receive extra phonics support and Interventions in Year 2.

So far, 32/40 has been always been the pass threshold, but this could change.

How can I help my child at home?

- 1) First, use the assessment tool to see which sounds your child does not remember from The Basics 3, up to Higher Levels 5 - Group 2.
- 2) If the children have gaps in their learning and cannot remember specific sounds, use the phonics page on the school website to access activities for the sounds required. Give the children flashcards for any sound that they are unsure of and practise them daily.

For each sound on the school website, you should find: Read and roll Rex, Real or Nonsense and Bingo. You could also use phonics play.

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

- 3) As the children learn the 2 new sounds each week (in line with their spelling tests), please give them their new sounds as additional flash cards to practise every day.
- 4) **Additionally**, I have uploaded practice phonics screening checks for you to go through and read with your child.

When completing practice Checks:

- You cannot segment the word for the child.
- The child must blend the word independently.
- You can not point to the graphemes.
- You cannot remind the children of the phonemes in the words.
- You are not allowed to tell the child to have another go. The children can attempt the word as many times as they like, but they have to recognise their own mistakes.

You can find previous Phonics Screening papers on:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phonics-screening-check-2023-materials>