14 May 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in the phonics screening check during the week of the 10th 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.

The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an expected standard. The results from the check are used by schools to analyse their own performance and will be reported to parents by the end of the summer term.

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 nonsense words. Nonsense 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.

The majority of preparation for the test will be done in school during our daily phonics sessions. If you would like to help your child at home, please continue to read their phonics books regularly and practise the speed sounds in the front of the book and speed words at the back of the book.

We would like this to be a stress free and enjoyable experience for the children. Children will not be aware that they are sitting a test, and we will do our best to ensure that they feel happy and relaxed throughout the screening.

If you have any further questions, please do come and chat to us.

Kind regards,

Year 1 Team