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Headteacher
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Part of Perry Hall Multi-Academy Trust
Company Number: 08566185



7 October 2021

Dear parents/carers.

I am writing to inform you about the National Phonics Screening Test which will take place this academic year in the Summer term for all Year 1 children. There will be a Zoom meeting regarding the Phonics Screening Test on 19th October at 5pm. The link for the meeting is below.

Topic: Year 1 Phonics Meeting

Time: Oct 19, 2021 05:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99362133218?pwd=cHJVTmJHT1p4ZU5pclhEdVZLSjM5UT09>

Meeting ID: 993 6213 3218

Passcode: iyYY1b

Who takes the test?

All children in Year 1 take the test. For the 2021/22 academic year only, it has been made statutory for schools to administer a phonics screening check to Year 1 pupils during the Summer term and return results to the LA.

What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read. They are taught how to:

- Recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes
- Identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make e.g. sh and oo
- Blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can then use this knowledge to segment and blend new words that they hear or see.

Why phonics?

Research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way – starting with the easiest sounds and progressing through to the most complex – it is the most effective way of teaching young children to read.

What is the phonics screening check?

As you already know, the government introduced an annual phonics screening check for Year 1 children every year. This will further inform our continual assessment of the children's phonic knowledge and the results of the check will be shared with parents/carers in the end of year report. It comprises of a list of 40 words that children read one-to-one with a teacher. The list is a combination of both real and made up, non-words which rely purely on using phonics to decode. The non-words are words that have been made up and will be shown with a picture of an imaginary creature.

Examples of real words



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*meet plan ships call grit trains shin week
handy scrape trumpet surprise newt slide brains finger
Examples of nonsense words
tox blan elt geck thazz sclak*

steck climp quemp shoik thene blust

jound strupe snemp stroft

The children will largely be unaware of the screening and will enjoy some one-to-one time with their teachers.

What are nonsense words?

Your child will be told during the check which words are nonsense words (that he/she will not have seen before). Your child will be familiar with this because we already use 'nonsense words' or 'alien words' when teaching phonics in school. Nonsense words are important to include because words such as 'vap' or 'jound' are new to all children. Children cannot read the nonsense words by using their memory or vocabulary; they have to use their decoding skills. This is a fair and accurate way to assess children's ability to decode.

After the check

We will tell you about your child's progress in phonics and how they have got on in the screening check as part of the end of year report. All children are individuals and develop at different rates, however if your child has found the check difficult, we will also tell you what support we have put in place to help them improve. The screening check ensures that teachers understand which children need extra help with phonic decoding; if your child does not reach the threshold level, we will carry out the test again in Year 2 and ensure interventions will be put in place to support your child.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Miss L Swann
Phonics Lead.