

Woodthorne Primary School

Woodthorne Road South

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Wolverhampton

WV6 8XL

Email: woodthorneprimaryschool@wolverhampton.gov.ukWeb: www.woodthorneprimary.org**Headteacher**

Mr T Hinkley

Chief Executive Officer

Mrs A Cheema OBE

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

Tel: 01902 921160

20th September 2022

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. We will be holding a meeting regarding the Phonics Screening Test on Wednesday 12th October at 5pm in the Key Stage 1 school hall, to which we would welcome you all to attend.

Who takes the test?

All children in Year 1 take the test as it is statutory for schools to administer a phonics screening check to Year 1 pupils during the Summer term and return results to the Local Authority.

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?

The phonics screening check 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

meet plan ships call

grit trains shin week

handy scrape trumpet surprise

newt slide brains finger

Examples of non - words

tox blan elt geck thazz sclak

steck clinp quemp shoik thene blust

jound strupe snemp stroft

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

What are non-words?

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

After the check

We will tell you about your child's progress in phonics and how he or she has done in the screening check as part of the end of year report. If your child has found the check difficult, we will also tell you what support we have put in place to help him or her improve. All children are individuals and develop at different rates. The screening check ensures that teachers understand which children need extra help with phonic decoding. If your child does not reach the required level, they will be re-tested in Year 2 and extra phonics/ extra support put in place.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We look forward to seeing you on the 12th October at 5pm.

Thank you, as always for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss L Swann
Phonics Lead.