

Phonics Screening Check

- In 2012 the Government brought in a statutory assessment called the **Phonics Screening Check** for children in Year 1.
- It is a check to see if children are making sufficient progress with their phonics skills to read words and are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and for learning.
- The Phonics Screening Check is intended to show how well children use the **phonics skills** they have learned by the end of Year 1.
- It will also identify students who need **extra** phonics help.
- It will take around **four to nine minutes** to complete.

‣ The Check will happen in the **week beginning Monday June 6th 2022.**

‣ **All** Year 1 children are expected to take the check.

‣ We have **one week** in which to complete all the checks with all the Year 1 children that are in school.

‣ If a child is absent in Week 1, we are able to do the check with **those children only** in Week 2.

‣ If a child is **absent for both weeks** they will score 0 and have to take the check again in Year 2.

- The check consists of **40 words, half real words and half non-words** which are divided into two sections – one with simple word structures of three or four letters, and one with more complex word structures of five or six letters.
- Your child will be given some **practise words** to read first – including some non-words – so they understand more about what they have to do.

- Each of the non-words is presented with a picture of an **alien** and we make it clear which words they are reading on each page.
- Alien words are important to include as they can't be read using their vocabulary or from memory; they have to use their decoding skills. This is a fair way to assess all children's ability to decode.

Alien words.

We treat them as if they are the name of the alien.

Remember, to read these correctly your child needs to use:

Special Friends,
Fred Talk,
Read the Word

Check 1

Section 1

stip



prool



darps



thand



moat

shape

hair

crate

Real words.
Remember to
read these
correctly your
child needs to
use:
Special Friends,
Fred Talk,
Read the Word

- Your child will be scored against a **national standard**.
- In 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 the pass threshold has been **32**. (There were no official checks in 2020 or 2021.)
- The threshold score is now released **after** the Screening Check has been completed in schools.
- If your child has reached the threshold score **they will have passed** and will not have to take the Screening Check again.
- If they **do not** reach the threshold score they will continue with their Phonics sessions in Year 2 and will **take the Screening Check again at the end of Year 2**.
- If they do not reach the threshold score in Year 2 they will continue to be **given Phonics support** by the school but **will not** have to take the Screening Check again.

- ❧ We will send out a **letter** informing you of your child's score.
- ❧ It will be after we are given the threshold score for this year (so after the two weeks have finished).
- ❧ We will be **unable** to discuss anything before this as we have strict guidelines to adhere to as with any other assessments set by the Government.

❧ **What can you do to support your child?**

❧ Read regularly with your child.

❧ Encourage new texts and different types of reading with your child such as road signs, shopping lists, books or non-fiction writing.

❧ Discuss tricky words. Tell them how they might approach such words.

❧ Look for special friends in words before your child attempts to read them.

- Special friends are sounds which work together to create a new sound.
- In the word ship, there is a s-h-i-p. If a child simply sounds it out, it will not make the word ship with many children reading **sip**
- The **s** and **h** are **special friends** and together they say **sh**.
- If a child has spotted this, they will say **sh-i-p** and blend it to make the word **ship** correctly.

- The special friend may not be at the beginning of a word.
- If the word is queen, special friends are **qu** and **ee** so the child will read **qu-ee-n queen** instead of the alternative q-u-e-e-n quen.
- It is one of the **most important** things to help your child to be able to spot **special friends** in order to say a word correctly.

‣ At school we read new words using the same format

‣ **Special Friends, Fred Talk, Read the Word**

‣ Look at the word **clock** and then follow these 3 steps with your child.

‣ **Special Friends: ck**

‣ **Fred Talk: c-l-o-ck**

‣ **Read the word: clock**

- ↳ We will work with children to get them ready for the Screening Check but will also **continue teaching** the way we always do.
- ↳ We have **RWInc every day**, we have a **reading session every day**, we have **intervention groups** for RWInc and afternoon Pinny Time and Speed Sound lessons whenever possible. We play as many fun games such as 'Fred Says' and we enjoy Phonic activities wherever possible to increase the children's ability to hear and blend sounds to make words.
- ↳ We will keep it as **fun** and as low key as possible with the children so that they are able to do their best.
- ↳ We do regular checks through the year, in the room where they will take the final check, so that they are familiar with the adult and the surroundings.

❧ **Questions?**

❧ Please dojo your child's class teacher if you have any questions/queries/worries and we will do our best to answer them. We are all available through the year to support you and your child.

❧ **Thank you.**