

27th April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

All Year 1 pupils in England take the phonics screening check. It is done in school by our staff. The check is made up of 40 words, and usually lasts 5-10 minutes. Some words are real words, and others are nonsense, or 'alien' words, that help to show if pupils can work out how to decode words they haven't seen before. Please see the attached parental guide for more information.

The check helps us to see:

- How pupils are progressing in phonics
- Where to provide additional teaching and support

The check may not be appropriate for some pupils. We'll let you know if we think this is the case for your child.

Children in Year 1 will take the phonics screen check in **June 2023**.

We have to report the results to the Local Authority by the end of the Summer term. We will also let you know the results in children's end of year reports. If your child does not meet the expected standard in the check, they'll get to have another go next year. It's nothing to worry about, the results don't count towards any league or school performance tables.

Do we need to prepare children at home?

No – your child is being taught phonics at school and no special work at home is needed.

However, you can always help your child by:

- Reading to and with them
- Playing sound and reading games
- Teaching them new words, and showing them how they're written

If you have any questions about this letter or the attached booklet, or would like to talk further about the phonics screening check, we will have a Question and Answer session on **Monday 15th May at 3.20pm** in the Year 1 classroom.

Best wishes,

Mrs Burland and Mrs Rowett

Y1 Teacher

Headteacher