



16th April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you that your child will be taking the National Phonics Screening Test during the week beginning 10th June 2024. This letter aims to answer any questions you may have about the Phonics Screening Check. However, if you find you still have questions after reading this letter, please contact your child's class teacher who will be happy to provide any additional information you may need.

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

The government introduced the Phonics Screening Check in 2012 to check that all children are learning to decode words at an age-appropriate level. The assessment comprises of 40 words that the children read one-to-one with their teacher. The list is a combination of real and made up words that contain the sounds the children have learnt in Reception and Year One. The made up words are there to assess the children's ability to use phonics to decode without using any other reading skills. They are accompanied by a picture of an imaginary creature to help the children recognise that it is not a real word. The children will be familiar with the vocabulary of nonsense or alien words and have regular practice in their phonics sessions at reading such words. The children are encouraged to recognise that it is a nonsense word and then to look out for any digraphs, trigraphs or split digraphs before they begin sounding out the word.

The children have been practising Phonics Screening Checks at the end of every half term since starting in Year One; they are very used to the structure of the assessment and will be largely unaware that they are completing a test.

Who takes the Phonics Screening Check?

During the week of 10th June, children in Year One throughout the country will all take the Phonics Screening Check. Children in Year Two who did not achieve the required result or who did not take the test when they were in Year One, will also complete the check during this time.

What is the pass mark?

Since 2012, the pass mark has been 32 out of 40 but this may change.

Reporting the results

You will receive your child's Phonics Screening Check Score as part of the end of year report. If your child has not met the threshold set out by government, they will be given extra phonics support in Year Two and will have another opportunity to complete the check next year.

What can you do at home?

Read as much as possible to and with your child, encouraging them to decode the words and identify any digraphs, split digraphs or trigraphs, give a mixture of real and nonsense words for your child to practise, practise reading more complex words that are two or three syllables and ensure that your child is confident identifying and reading the following sounds:

- single letters (**a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q(u), r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z**)
- some consonant digraphs (**ch, ck, ff, ll, ng, sh, ss, th, zz**)
- frequent and consistent vowel digraphs (**ar, ee, oi, oo,or**)
- additional consonant digraphs (**ph, wh**)

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- less frequent and consistent vowel digraphs, including split digraphs (**a-e, ai, au, aw, ay, ea, e-e, er, ew, i-e, ie, ir, oa, o-e, ou, ow, oy, ue, u-e, ur**)
- trigraphs (**air, igh**)
- alternative pronunciations (**a, c, ch, e, ea, er, g, l, ie, o, oo, ou, ow, s, u, ue, u-e**)

To support with the pronunciation of sounds, please use videos below:

<https://burwellvillageprimary.co.uk/resource/phonics/>

These can be found at the bottom of the page on the 'Phonics' page on the school website.

If you have any questions about any of these sounds, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Thank you.

Regards,

Lee Mayes
Assistant Headteacher