

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 1 children,

I am writing to inform you about the Key Stage One phonics screening check. All schools are required to complete this with all children in Year 1 and children in Year 2 who didn't reach the required standard when they were in Year 1. The screening takes place in June and is administered by teachers working individually with each child for about 15 minutes each. We approach this task sensitively and work positively with the children. The children are asked to read 40 words divided into two sections of 20 words. Both sections contain a mixture of real words and pseudo-words (non-words/zog words). The pseudo words are included because children can't read them using their memory or vocabulary so they have to use their phonic decoding skills. The children often complete activities in school using pseudo words so this approach is not new to them.

I will be sending home some sample words for you to work with your child. We are expected to complete the screening with all Year 1 children then repeat it in Year 2 with children who needed extra support to check the progress they have made. Some children may not be able to read all 40 words and will access the screening at their own level. Schools are required to report results to parents by the end of the school year so you will learn whether your child met the required standard, what we will do as a school and what you should do as a parent to ensure his/her phonic skills progress if he/she needs extra support.

Below is a link to a document entitled 'Learning to read through Phonics' which the Department for Education has produced for parents. This will provide further information for you, especially on how to help your children at home.

Testing will take place during the week beginning 11th June 2018 and it is very important that your child attends school during that week. Thank you for your support to the school and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Link: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/194057/phonics_check_leaflet_2013_.pdf

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Frater

Class Teacher