

Wednesday 8th May 2019

Dear parents/carers,

I am writing to inform you about the Key Stage One phonics screening check. All schools are required to complete this check with all children in year one and children in year two who didn't reach the required standard when they were in year one.

The screening takes place in June and is administered by teachers working individually with each child for about fifteen minutes each. The children are asked to read forty words divided into two sections of twenty words, both sections contain a mixture of real words and pseudo (nonsense/alien) 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. As part of their daily phonics lesson the children are required to read alien words and they have done practise tests so the format is familiar to them.

The screening check is not a formal test but a way for teachers to ensure that children are making sufficient progress in phonics to read words and are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and learning. Your child's results will be reported to you by the end of the academic year. Children progress at different speeds so not reaching the threshold score does not necessarily mean there is a serious problem. Your child will re-sit the check the following summer term in year two.

In order to help you support your child in preparing for the check, please find included an example screening check. Your child may find it helpful to add dots (one letter making one sound) and dashes (more than one letter making one sound) to help them segment the words into their phonemes before then blending to read the word.

If you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss L Murray

English Lead