

Phonic Screening Check - Year 1

A guide for parents

What is the Phonic Screening Check?

The National Phonic Screening Check is a statutory assessment that was introduced in 2012 to all Year 1 pupils and is a quick and easy check of your child's phonic knowledge.

Who is it for and when does it take place?

All Year 1 pupils will take the Phonics Screening Check in **2022** during the **week beginning 6th June**.

What is in the Phonics Screening Check?

It comprises of a list of 20 real words and 20 nonsense words which will assess phonic skills and knowledge learnt through Reception and Year 1. Your child will read one-to-one with their class teacher. They will read up to 4 words per page and they will probably do the check in 10-15 minutes. They will be asked to 'sound out' a word and blend the sounds together. The check is very similar to tasks the children already complete during phonic lessons.

Is it stressful to test such young children?

The children at St Edward's are familiar with the set up as we are constantly reviewing the children's progress in the same way. As you are aware we have been using past phonic checks in class which have already been added to Tapestry. It should be an enjoyable activity for children which takes no more than 15 minutes. There will be a few practise words at the beginning to make sure your child understands the activity.

What are Nonsense or Pseudo words and why are they included?

These are words that are phonically decodable but not actual words with an associated meaning eg brip, snorb. These words are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using phonic skills and not their memory. The nonsense words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. The alien will highlight to your child that this is a nonsense word and to use their decoding skills to read the word.

This will make the check a bit more fun and provides the children with a context for the nonsense words. Crucially it does not provide any clues, so your child has to be able to decode it.

How will the results from the screening be used?

You will be informed of your child's progress in phonics and how they have done in the Phonics Screening Check, towards the end of the Summer Term.

All of the children are individual and develop at different stages. The check ensures that teachers understand which children need more support with decoding.

What happens if a child struggles with the Phonics Screening Check?

The Phonics Screening Check will identify children who have phonetic decoding skills below the level expected for the end of Year 1 and who therefore need extra support in school. Schools are expected to provide extra help and children will then be able to re-take the assessment in Year 2.

How can I help my child?

There are a number of things that parents can do to support early reading development:

- Let your child see you enjoy reading yourself. They are influenced by you and what you do!
- Immerse your child in a love of reading and continue sharing a range of books at home.
- Make time for your child to read their school book to you.
- With all books, encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend from left to right rather than looking at pictures to guess.
- Visit the local library and choose some books to read at home.
- Use the Phonic Screening Check materials on Tapestry to practise decoding.

We hope this information is useful. Remember, we are here to help your child achieve their very best. If you have any questions please ask Mrs Hayman (Phonics Lead), or your child's class teacher. We are all happy to help.