



# Phonics Screening Check Parent / Carer Information

# What Is Phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children how to read and write. It helps children hear, identify and use different sounds that distinguish one word from another in the English language.

c....a.....t    cat

sh...ee..p    sheep

A Merebrook we use Read, Write Inc. to deliver phonics. This consistent approach has proved to be very successful.

# What Is The Phonics Screening Check?

Children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the same week in June.

The tests will take place **8th – 10th June**. Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when in Year 1, or they have not taken the test before.

The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt sufficient phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.

# What Happens During The Test?

The test contains 40 words.

Each child will sit one to one and read each word aloud to a teacher.

The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child; although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace.

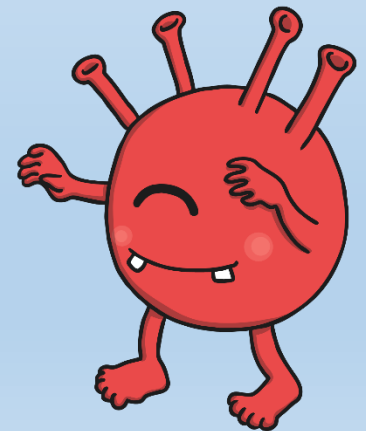
The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words).

# Pseudo Words (Alien Words)

The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This provides the children with a context for the pseudo word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have.

Pseudo words are included because they will be new to all pupils; they do not favour children with a good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words.

Learning to read 'alien' words is one way to support your child at home.



# Example Of The Check

Practice sheet: Real Words

beg

twinkl.co.uk

at

twinkl.co.uk

sum

twinkl.co.uk

in

twinkl.co.uk

Practice sheet: Pseudo Words

vap 

twinkl.co.uk

osk 

twinkl.co.uk

ot 

twinkl.co.uk

ect 

twinkl.co.uk

# Reporting To Parents

By the end of the Summer term all schools must report their child's results to parents.

They will also confirm if the child has met the standard threshold.

Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in Year 2.

Provision will be put in place in school to support these children.



# How Can I Help My Child At Home?

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise – help to build their confidence as a reader.
- Use the provided resources to support your child at home and do speak to the class teacher if you need any advice or support.





# How Can I Help My Child At Home?

- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each letter, e.g. /c/ in cat, or the letter group, e.g. /ng/ in sing. Next move your finger under the whole word as you say it.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.



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