Dear Parent / Carer

Re: National Phonics Screening Test

As you are aware children in Year 1 will take the National Phonics Screening Check this year. The checks will take place during the week of the 11th June. We would therefore ask, that unless your child is ill, that they attend school every day during this period. Please ensure your child arrives at school promptly as we will begin each day with a phonics session, in order to warm the children up, ready for the test.

What is the phonics screening check?
The Phonics Screening Check comprises of a list of 40 words that children read one-to-one with their teacher. The list is a combination of both real and nonsense words which rely purely on using phonics to decode. Our children are very familiar with these tests as they have participated in practice tests throughout the year.

After the check
We will inform you about your child’s progress in phonics and how he or she has done in the screening check as part of the end of year report.

Helping your child with phonics
Over the next few weeks you can help your child prepare for the Phonics Screening Check at home. Here are some simple steps;

- Make up some nonsense words that your child can practice reading e.g. froin, chob, splake etc.
- Watch the articulation video on the Year 1 page to familiarise yourself with the individual sounds. You can then highlight these sounds when you read with your child. Practice any sounds that you find your child struggles with.
- When reading, encourage your child to ‘sound out’ unfamiliar words and then blend the sounds together from left to right rather than looking at the pictures to guess. Once your child has read an unfamiliar word you can talk about what it means and help him or her to follow the story.
- Try to make time to read with your child every day. Grandparents and older brothers or sisters can help, too. Encourage your child to blend the sounds all the way through a word.
- Word games like ‘I-spy’ can also be an enjoyable way of teaching children about sounds and letters. You can also encourage your child to read words from your shopping list or road signs to practise phonics.
- Use past Phonics Screening check materials these can be found at www.gov.uk.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself or your child’s class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs McNickle-Edwards
Year 1 Assistant Head Teacher

Tuesday 15th May 2018