

Year 1

Phonics screening check 2017

# Phonics overview

- We use Jolly phonics and Letters and Sounds to support our teaching of phonics. Each letter that is taught has a rhyme and an action to help the children recall the sound that letter makes.
- Children are taught to build on their knowledge of initial sounds to identify combinations of letters that make new sounds. For example **s** and **h** together make 'sh', **t** and **h** make 'th', **a** and **i** make 'ai'.
- Children are taught to blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word. E.g c-l-a-p. We encourage children to use their 'robot arms' so there is a physical movement for each sound that they hear.

- Children use their knowledge to de-code new words that they hear or see.
- We also teach 'same sound – different appearance'. For example the sound 'i' can be written as 'ie' as in pie, 'igh' as in high or 'i-e' as in pipe which is a split digraph. We provide lots of opportunities for children to see alternative ways of spelling so that they can become familiar with written language.

# What is the phonics screening check?

- The phonics screening check is a quick and easy way to see how each child uses their phonic knowledge to decode words. It is also another way for us to confirm that your child has made the expected progress.
- The check will take place the week commencing Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June.

# How does the check work?

- Children complete the check individually with a teacher.
- They will be asked to read 40 words aloud.
- The check takes a few minutes, however there is no time limit. If your child is struggling, the check can be stopped. It is not designed to be stressful for your child.
- We do not tell the children that they are being checked. We say they are coming to show me how well they are doing with their reading.

# What sort of words will be used?

- There are 20 real words some of which they may have read before.
- There are 20 non-words that will be completely new.
- Non – words are important to include because words such as ‘vap’ or ‘jound’ are new to all children. Children can’t read the non–words by using their memory or known vocabulary. They have to use their decoding skills- no-one has an advantage and so it’s a fairer way to assess their ability to decode.

# Examples of non words

- vot



- shaif



- quorst



- strabe



- All children are used to reading non-words. We make it part of our phonic lessons.
- In past years, some fluent readers have not done as well as expected because they assume a non word is a real word that they know. An example of this would be 'flane' – they read it as 'flame'. We always stress in our phonics lessons to sound out each phoneme carefully before saying it aloud because some words may trip us up.
- We do not know in advance what words are going to be used for this year's screening. Also we do not know what the pass mark is going to be. That is released once all schools have completed the check.

# After the check

- We will let you know towards the end of the summer term how your child has faired in the phonics screening. If your child has found it difficult they will be given support in year 2 to help them.
- It is important to remember that all children are individuals and develop at different rates.

• Any Questions?

