

# PHONICS MEETING

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> April

# BACKGROUND

- ◉ The National Phonics 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 phonics knowledge.
- ◉ This year the check takes place during the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> June. We are able to use the week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> June in case any children are absent from school.

# THE CHECK

- ◉ It comprises of a list of 40 words and nonsense words. It will assess phonics skills and knowledge learnt through Reception and Year 1. Your child will read one-one with a teacher. It will be your child's current teacher, so it is a familiar face.
- ◉ Your child will read up to 4 words per page and they will probably do the check in less than 10 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 phonics lessons.

# HOW ARE THEY CHECKED?

- The children will have a phonics session in the room where the check will take place.
- Then we will take the children one at a time to complete the check.
- It should be an enjoyable activity for children which takes no more than 10 minutes. There will be a few practise words at the beginning to make sure your child understands the activity.

# NONSENSE AND REAL WORDS

- These are words that are phonetically decodable but not actual words with an associated meaning e.g. briip, snorb.
- These words are included in the check specifically to assess whether you child can decode a word using phonic skills and not their memory.
- The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. The children will be asked to read the word. Crucially it does not provide any clues, so your child has to be able to decode it. Children generally find nonsense words amusing so they will probably enjoy reading these words.

# HOW WILL I KNOW HOW THEY DID?

- You will be informed of your child's progress in phonics and how he or she has done in the screening check, towards the end of the summer term.
- All of the children are individuals and develop at different stages.
- The screening check ensures that teachers understand which children need support with decoding.

# WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY HAVE STRUGGLED WITH THE CHECK?

- The screening check will identify children who have phonic decoding skills below the level expected for the end of year 1 and who therefore need help. Schools are expected to provide extra help and children will then be able to re-take the assessment in Year 2.

# What is phonics?

- Children are taught to read by breaking down words into separate sounds or 'phonemes'. They are then taught how to blend these sounds together to read the whole word.
- Children have a 20mins phonics lesson each day and they are encouraged to use these strategies to read and write in other lessons.
- There are around 40 different sounds.



# Examples of words:

in

ot



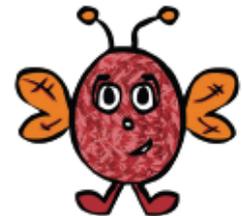
at

vap



beg

osk



sum

ect



# How can you help?

•Encourage your child to 'sound out' when reading or writing. Focusing particularly on spotting more unusual sound patterns.

Eg

Digraph- 2 letters making one sound

cow

Trigraphs- 3 letters making one sound

night

Split digraphs- 2 vowels with a consonant between

spine - i\_e

# How can you help?

- Encourage your child to use their sounds when writing and use their actions to find the sound they need.
- Children can practise their phonics by playing games online. The children particularly like 'Buried Treasure'

• <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/BuriedTreasure2.html>



# How can you help?

•REMEMBER: Phonics is not the only thing needed to become a fluent reader.

•Please continue to read with your child each night and encourage them to:

•Sound out

•Re-read to check it makes sense.

•Use pictures for clues.

•Ask questions about the book.

•And most importantly ENJOY READING!