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RE: Phonics Screening Check

Dear parents and carers,

Children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check next week. 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. This letter aims to provide parents with further information regarding the screening check.

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

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

What Happens During the Screening?

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 (Nonsense 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.

Reporting to Parents By the end of the summer term all schools must report each child's results to their 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mr Trotter if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

Luci Clapton
Head of School