



Phonics Screening Check 2017



What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully.



We teach the children how to:

- **recognise the sounds** that each individual letter makes.
- identify the sounds that **different combinations of letters** make.
- Two letter sounds like 'sh' and 'oo' are called **digraphs** and 3 letter sounds like 'igh' are called **trigraphs**.
- **blend** these sounds together from left to right to **make a word**.

Children can then use this knowledge to '**de-code**' new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.





Why phonics?

- Research shows that when **phonics is taught in a structured way** it is the most effective way of teaching young children to read.
- Almost all children who receive good teaching of phonics **will learn the skills** they need to tackle new words.
- They can then go on to read any kind of text fluently and confidently, and **to read for enjoyment.**



Why do we have the phonics screening check?

- The check is **designed for Y1 children** to assess their **phonics knowledge** and **skill in de-coding** words.
- Y2 children who did not reach the threshold in Y1 and those new to **Y2** will be **re-checked**.
- It will not tell us anything that we do not already know about your child's progress in phonics.



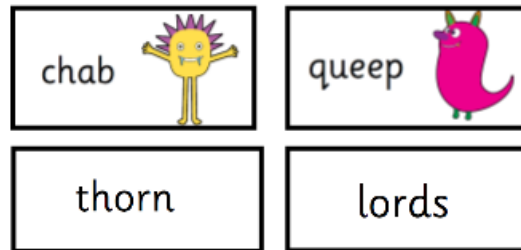
What will happen?

- The checks will take place in week of **Monday 19th June.**
- Each child will **read 40 words** with a familiar adult in a **quiet and relaxed setting.**
- The checks will take place with the Robin, Becca, Sophie & the SLT as required.
- There is **no time limit.** The check could take a few minutes or as long as each child needs.
- It will not be a stressful experience! The children see it as a fun quiz.



What sort of words will there be?

- There will be **normal words** that the children should recognise.
- The check will contain **non-words** as well, such as:



- We tell the children that these are **alien names** who wanted to take part!
- Children use their knowledge of sounds to **read**, or **decode** and **blend** these words.

How will I know how my child does in the check?

- We will tell you by the **end of the Summer Term**.
- All Year 1 children **who do not reach** the standard this year will be **re-checked** when they are **in Y2** (June 2017).

How Can you help your child to prepare for the Phonics Check?

- We will be giving each of you a **list of games and activities** you can play at home and on the way to and from school.
- These activities **should be fun** and easy for you to carry out – **no expensive resources** needed!
- Continue to **read daily** with your child, encouraging them to use their 'reading finger' to sound out (or 'de-code') and blend the words.

