The Y1 Phonics Screening Check & Supporting Phonics At Home
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 do we have the phonics screening check?

• This is a national standardised check for all Y1 children in the country.
• It is a measure for holding schools to account.
• 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**.
What will happen?

• The checks will take place in week of **Monday 10\textsuperscript{th} 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, Jacob, 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>chab</th>
<th>queep</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>thorn</td>
<td>lords</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 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 2020).
Things to Help

- Home sound cards for the children to use with you at home.
- 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.