



17<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 2 pupils,

In the Summer Term, all Year 1 pupils complete a statutory assessment to confirm whether they have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard. The Phonics Screening Check consists of 40 words and the words are a combination of real words and alien words (nonsense words). However, due to the coronavirus pandemic this year, the pupils were unable to take the test in June as planned. Therefore, the children will be completing this assessment in December.

We have been regularly assessing and monitoring the children's phonics skills (both in Year 1 and since their return to school in September) using a similar format to the Phonics Screening Check; therefore, children will be familiar with the format of the assessment and we anticipate that there shouldn't be any big surprises. Once the Phonics Screening Check assessments have been completed and evaluated, you will be informed if your child has met the standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test again in June next year.

In preparation for this, we will share a useful PowerPoint with you which gives details of the content of the test and how it will be administered. We hope that this will help you further understand how phonics is taught and what the children are expected to know. You can help your child by revising the letters and sounds in each phase. You can find all of the letters and sounds in each phase on The Government's Letters and Sounds website here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letters-and-sounds>

In addition, you could play some of the phonics games that we play in class which can be found on the Phonics Play website here:

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

We would also actively encourage you to continue using our online learning platforms (Reading Eggs and Fast Phonics) to further support the children with their early reading skills.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Kind regards,

Miss Thomas

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