The Federation of Sacred Heart and St Mary's Primary Schools, Battersea



Year One

Phonics Screening Check

What we will be covering today...

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What is Phonics?

Children begin to learn phonics (sounds) in early years, both nursery and reception. Once children begin learning sounds, these sounds are used orally to identify and make words. They will then begin to learn the letters which make each of the sounds and these are used to read and spell words.

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What is the Phonics Screening Check?

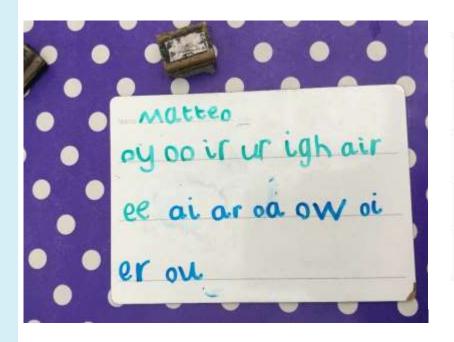
Children in Year I throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the same week in June. Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when in Year I or they have not taken the test before.

Headteachers should decide whether it is appropriate for each of their pupils to take 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 Test?

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).

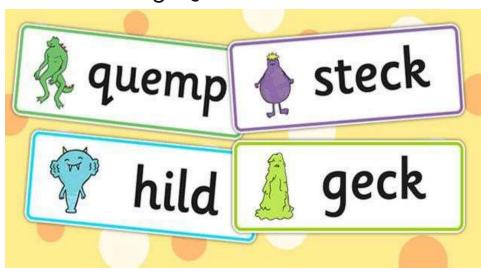


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Pseudo Words (Nonsense Words)

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.

How Are the Results Used?

Results from the check will be used by schools to analyse their own performance and for Ofsted to use in inspections.



How Can I Help My Child at Home?

- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise if they sound a word out and it doesn't sound quite right, encourage them to say the sound in a different way. The GPCs that can be found inside the front cover of your child's reading book will help them to recall alternative spellings of sounds and help them to consolidate their knowledge.
- Encourage your child to 'sound talk and sweep' when reading.
- Encourage them to 'sound talk in their head' and re-read sentences to build fluency.
- Remind your child to, 'chunk up' longer words.
- Discuss the meaning of any words your child has not previously encountered.
- Refer to the Little Wandle Parents website. There is a link on the school website, or you can go directly here:
- https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/