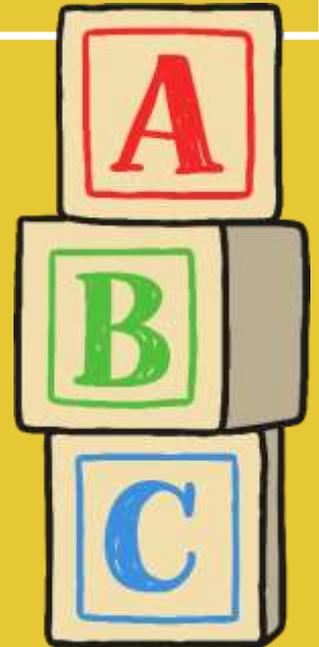


# Year One

## Phonics Screening Check

A Guide for Parents



# 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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Children have daily phonics lessons at St Edwards Academy, they are taught to read by breaking down words into separate sounds or 'phonemes'. They are then taught how to blend these sounds together to read the whole word.



[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW\\_v-1s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW_v-1s)

# What is the Phonics Screening Check?

Children in Year 1 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 1 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.



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			were	there	little	one	when	out	what				

# 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).

Every Year 1 child in the country will be taking the statutory phonics screening check in the same week.

The check is very similar to tasks that the children already complete during phonics lessons.

The focus of the check is to provide evidence of children's decoding and blending skills, not to test their vocabulary.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPJ\\_ZEBh1Bk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPJ_ZEBh1Bk) (36seconds- 2:24)

# 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.



# When will the check be?

Week commencing **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June**

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# How Can I Help My Child at Home?

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise – get them to have a ‘good guess’.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each one, e.g. /c/ in cat, /p/ in pat, /ng/ in sing, /ee/ in been. Next move your finger under the whole word as you say it.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.

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Encourage them to use their sounds and actions to find the sound they need.

Children can practise their phonics by playing games online.

The children particularly like -

- \* Buried Treasure
- \* Poopdeck Pirates
- \* Picnic on Pluto

