

# **Phonics Screening Check Information**

# What is the Phonics Screening Check?

- The test is a statutory reading check that all year 1 children take in June. It is designed to assess whether each child has reached the age appropriate standard by the end of year 1.
- The test will be completed on a 1:1 basis with their class teacher. It will usually take about 10 minutes, however there is no time limit and they can take as long as they need.

# What does it consist of?

- The check contains 40 words. There are 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words).
- Pseudo words are presented with a picture of an alien so children will know that this will not make sense to them.
- Pseudo words are used to ensure children are still able to decode unfamiliar words rather than just reading words from memory.
- The difficulty of the words progresses through the 'test'.

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# Expectations

- By the end of year 1 children are expected to be able to recognise grapheme-phoneme correspondences up to the end of phase 5.
- It is expected that all children complete the test.

# Scores

- For the past few years the pass mark has been set at 32 out of 40 words correctly decoded.
- However, this can change as the Department for Education do not release the 'pass' mark until a few weeks after the children have completed the check.
- If your child does not pass, we are then as a school required to provide extra support for them in phonics. They will also complete the check again when they are in year 2.

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