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Norwood Primary School

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PE4 7DZ

Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

Aim High

Never Give Up

Follow Your Dream

Lead By Example

March 2015

Dear Parents and Carers,

During June, every child in Year 1 will take a statutory Phonics Check test to assess how well they know and can read individual sounds within a variety of words. This is a National check, and is a simple process to allow us to know how well each child is progressing with their phonic knowledge. We teach the sounds through Read, Write, Inc. and phonics based games throughout the school day, and the children have been learning the sounds in preparation since their reception year.

When the check will take place:

The check is taken during the week beginning 15th June 2015, and every child must take the check during this time. You will be made aware of whether or not your child has passed this check later in the summer term. If your child does not pass the check, they will re-take the check in June during Year 2.

What the phonics check consists of:

The check is a list of 40 words made up of 20 real words, and 20 nonsense/pseudo words. The children work with their class teacher on a one to one basis, and simply read each word aloud. To pass the check, the children will need to be able to read the majority of the words.

We call the nonsense/pseudo words 'monster' or 'alien' words. These are purely designed to check that your child can read all of the sounds in any word or context.

How you can help your child at home:

To help you to support this from home, please find a poster in your child's home learning this week that you can work through with your child to help them to learn any sounds that they are unfamiliar with. This is also a tool to help you to make your own nonsense words up at home.

We are currently using various practise phonics checks in order to support your child with passing this check. Every week, we will send home a practise check for you to complete with your child in addition to this. If they need to, your child can Fred Talk the sounds and then read the word back. If your child can read the word, please tick it. It would help us if you could return this check each week in order for us to see which sounds need further support within school.

We want this practise to be as enjoyable as any other home learning, so please use lots of praise and encouragement and allow your child to take as many goes as they need to read each word.

There are games online that also support reading real and nonsense/pseudo words, and the children will play these within school time throughout the summer term:

- www.phonicsplay.co.uk
- www.letters-and-sounds.com

Thank you for your support with this.

Mrs L. Burnham
Assistant Head Teacher

Mrs D. Reynolds
Head Teacher

