



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

Aim High

Never Give Up

Follow Your Dream

Lead By Example

Tuesday 12th April 2016

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 **13th June 2016**, 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 at the end of the summer term (we will not know before then).

If your child does not pass the check, this means that they have not met the national expectations for Year 1 children, and therefore they will re-take the check in June during Year 2. We provide the necessary support for your child to help them with this throughout Year 2.

What the phonics check consists of:

The check is a list of 40 words made up of 20 real words (such as 'string' or 'bright'), and 20 nonsense/pseudo words (such as 'splorg' or 'prab') these are indicated to the children by a little alien picture (which they love). The children work with Mrs Burnham 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. The children will not know that this is a 'test'; they have had plenty of practise at reading these words for fun, and will simply understand the task as another 'special job' undertaken throughout the day. The check will not be stressful for your child, as they are in a familiar environment with an adult they know very well, and will simply be requested to try their best to read each word. This is something they do as part of every day school life anyway.

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, and most children find reading these very amusing!

How you can help your child at home:

To help you to support this from home, please continue to use the poster we sent home before Easter to help your child 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 activities 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 (this will take the place of home learning). If they need to, your child can Fred Talk the sounds (i.e. b-r-igh-t, bright) 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. In the real check, they can have as many goes as they need to and we accept their final answer.

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. If you have any questions about the check, please do speak to a member of the Year 1 team.

Mrs L Burnham
Assistant Head Teacher

Mrs D Reynolds
Head Teacher

