The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Holy Rood Catholic Primary School

Friday 7th March 2025

What is it?

The phonics screening check is a quick and easy check of your child's ability to use their phonics to read words.

It helps to confirm whether your child has made the expected progress in year 1.

If they do not pass the check, then they will receive additional support in Year 2 and be re-checked at the end of the next academic year.

Why?

- To identify early the children who will need extra support
- To raise the standard of reading and writing in all children by the time they leave KS1

When and how will it happen?

- The check will take place during the week commencing Monday 9th June (after the May half term).
- Your child will sit with a teacher they know and be asked to read 40 words aloud.
- Some of the words they may have seen before and some words will be completely new to them.
- The check normally takes just a few minutes to complete and there is no time limit.
- If your child is struggling, the teacher can easily stop the check. The check is carefully designed not to be stressful for your child.

Real Words

- These are words which the child will know by sight from seeing them in texts or words which can be decoded easily

- 50% of the check will consist of words like this:

chop sprain daylight

Screening Check Graphemes

Section 1

s t p m b n c d f

g h j k l r v w y

z x ss ff ll zz ck sh ch

th ng qu

a i e o u

ee oi oo or ar

Screening Check Graphemes

Section 2

ph wh ai ay a-e e-e ea er

igh i-e ie oa o-e ow ou ew ue

u-e au aw oy ir ur air

Alternative Pronunciations

a c ch e ea er g i ie

o ou ow f u ue u_e

heamasiphosa

h-ea-m-a-s-i-ph-o-s-a

Pseudo words

- 50% of the check will be non-words or pseudowords
- Children can't read these words using their memory or vocabulary; they have to use their decoding skills.
- It is therefore the best way to assess their ability to decode.

e.g. jound shripe

Pseudo words

wam	fisk	yob	dask
shib	zum	snid	scap
hig	bish	smub	tog

Screening check in action

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3ImrUwhzHc

What happens after the check?

- The pass mark for this check will only be published once everyone has taken the check.

- Parents will be alerted to the results of their child as soon as they are available – usually in their end of year report.

What we do in school to support our children's reading:

- We teach phonics and reading every day
- Shared writing is incorporated into our Literacy lessons
- Homework – reading at home, phonics check and spellings
- Additional Phonics support for any child who is finding particular phonemes difficult to read or use
- Additional 1:1 reading with our Teaching Assistants.

Our Weekly Reading Words

Focus ai / a_e / ay	
Real	Alien
chain	lainch
rainbow	daink
came	thrane
away	scray

Our Weekly Reading Words

Weekly reading check

. . ..

read the following words

/ai/ /a_e/ /ay/	
Real ✓	Alien
chain	lainch
rainbow	daink
came	thrane
away	scray
spray	plame

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What you can do at home

- With all books sent home, encourage your child to ‘sound out’ unfamiliar words and then blend the sounds together from left to right rather than looking at the pictures to guess. Once a child has read an unfamiliar word you can talk about what it means and help your child to follow the story.

- We will continue to send home one phonics eBook and one story book. Your child will be able to work out new words from their letters and sounds, rather than just guessing.

- Weekly phonics reading check – read these words with your child during the week. Encourage children to have a go at sounding out each word. Can they teach you the ‘sound buttons’?

- Try to make time to read with your child every day. Grandparents and older brothers or sisters can help, too. Encourage your child to sound any difficult words out and reassure them that there is nothing wrong with this.

- Word games, like ‘I-spy’, can also be an enjoyable way of teaching children about sounds and letters. You can also encourage your child to read words from your shopping list or road signs to practise their phonics.

Problems

Problem: My child doesn't like reading**.**

Translation: They find reading difficult, so they don't like it.

Solution: If they are taught the 'code' and are given opportunities to apply the code to different types of reading they will soon love it!

Then you won't be able to stop them.

New problem: My child won't stop reading!

Thank you for coming to our meeting.

Any questions?

These slides will be sent home via Google Classroom with this week's homework.

We will also put them on our school website.