

A Guide for Parents

Year Two

Phonics Screening Check 2020

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

Children in Year 1 throughout the country take part in a phonics screening check during the same week in June. This academic year children in Year 2 will take the check in the second half of the Autumn term because they missed taking it last June due to school closures.

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). The children need to use their knowledge of phonic sounds to read the words.

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. For example,

plap



blies



froin



keam



Reporting to Parents

By the end of the summer term all schools must report their child's results to parents. They will also confirm if the child has met the standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level in the Autumn 2020 check will retake the test in June 2021 when the current Year 1 take it.

How Are The Results Used?

Results from the 2020 check will be used by schools to analyse their own performance and inform teaching but will not be reported in national statistics.

Dear Parents,

In preparation for the Phonics Screening Check after the October half-term holiday could parents please revisit and practise the phonic sounds included on the Phase 3 and Phase 5 sound mats with their child. Phonics mats are available on the Year 2 class page on the school website <http://www.lovelearnlaugh.org.uk/class/year-2>

Perhaps the children could also look for words containing these sounds in their reading books or favourite stories at home.

The website www.phonicsplay.co.uk has a parent's area which includes free interactive games where children can practise their sounding and blending skills to read words.

The Department for Education's Letters and Sounds have produced home learning phonics videos for Year 2 which are a revision of phase 4 (consonant clusters) and phase 5 words to help children prepare for the Phonics Screening. They can be found on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLuGr6z2H2KNE3ABRJJaKoQWiIrXvxCUhg->

We are also providing you with practise sets of words over the coming weeks which you can read with your child. These contain examples of real and nonsense words from past Phonics Screening tests.

In school we don't tell the children that they are having a test, or need to prepare for a test, as we find children achieve best when they are calm and happy. We believe they are still very young to be worrying. The children are used to working one to one with teachers and just see the activity as part of their normal school day.

If you need further support or advice please do not hesitate to send an email to admin@lovelearnlaugh.org.uk and we will get back to you.

Many thanks,

Mrs Woodhouse, Mrs Holt and Ms Hainey