



26th January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers of Pupils in Year 1

YEAR 1 PHONICS SCREENING CHECK – PARENTS’ MEETING – MONDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2018

The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check will be administered to all Year 1 pupils in the week commencing **11th June 2018**. It is a short statutory assessment to confirm whether pupils have made sufficient progress in phonic skills to read words to an appropriate standard. It aims to identify pupils who need extra help so they can be given support by school to improve their reading skills. This will ensure that children are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and for learning. It will be delivered individually by a member of teaching staff who is familiar to your child.

A meeting has been arranged on **Monday 26th February 2018 at 3.45pm-4.30pm*** for the parents of Year 1 pupils, to give further information about the phonics screen check. This will include information about how the check is delivered and an example of what the phonics screen looks like. We will also explain the procedure for reporting results to parents and what the next steps will be for pupils who do not meet the expected standard.

In May this year our Y2 pupils will be assessed using the end of Key Stage 1 SATs (Statutory Assessment Tests). You will also have the opportunity to see the type of reading and comprehension assessments your child will be expected to access by the end of Year 2.

If you would like to attend the meeting could you please complete the reply slip below and return it to the Academy Office by **Thursday 8th February 2018**.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Secker
Principal

*Please report to the Academy Office and you will be directed to the meeting room.

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YEAR 1 PHONICS SCREENING CHECK – PARENTS’ MEETING – MONDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2018

I*/We* will be attending the above meeting

Child's Name _____ Class _____

Signature:- _____





Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Information for Parents

What is the phonics screening check?

The phonics screening check is a short statutory assessment. It is a quick and easy check of your child's phonics knowledge. It helps to confirm whether your child has made the expected progress in phonics.

What is in the phonics screening check?

It comprises a list of 40 real words and non-words (pseudo words), which your child will read one-to-one with their teacher. Half the words cover phonics skills which are covered in Reception, and half the words are based on Y1 phonics skills. It includes phonically decodable one syllable and two syllable words, e.g. cat, sand, windmill.

What are non-words or pseudo words and why are they included?

Our children refer to these words as alien words. The use of non-words is an established assessment method in many schools, and is included in different phonics programmes. These words are phonetically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning e.g. brip, snorb, kigh. Pseudo words are included in the check to specifically assess whether your child can decode words using phonics and not their memory of a familiar word they have already seen. Each of these words is shown to your child with a picture of an alien, so your child will know these words will not make sense when they read them.

Is it stressful to test such young children?

The assessment will be age appropriate, with children sitting with their teacher and reading one-to-one. It should be an enjoyable activity for a child which takes no more than a few minutes.

Is there a pass mark?

After children have taken the phonics screening check in June, the government will release the expected threshold score in July. In 2017 the threshold score was 32 out of 40. However, it is possible that the score may increase in subsequent years. Schools have to inform parents toward the end of the summer term in Year 1 of their child's result.

What happens if a child struggles with the screening check?

The screening check will identify children who have phonic decoding skills below the level expected for the end of Year 1 and who therefore need extra help. Schools are expected to provide extra help and children will then re-take the assessment at the end of Year 2.

Continued over

How can I help my child?

At Richmond Hill Primary Academy we often check phonic development as part of our assessment of reading. This screening forms part of our overall assessment procedure. However, there are a number of things parents can do to support early reading skill development.

- Let your child see you enjoying reading yourself.
- Immerse your child in a love of reading: share books and magazines with your child, take them to the library to choose books.
- Read to them regularly, point out text around you in everyday life e.g. reading menus, reading instructions for toys/games, reading text in the environment such as the supermarket, cinema, on days out etc.
- Make time for your child to read books to you regularly, encourage them by helping with tricky words and asking about the story.
- Help your child practise reading keywords, sounds and spellings when these are sent home.
- There are also lots of great websites and apps for children to learn through play. In school we used Read Write Inc. to teach phonics. This is a programme developed by Ruth Miskin. On her website www.ruthmiskin.com there is a parent section with clips explaining what phonics is and how parents can help their child with early reading skills.