

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School



Executive Headteacher: Mrs. S. Fraser

CHAIR OF GOVERNORS: MRS. C. HORSLEY

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28th April 2022

Dear parents/carers,

The National Phonics Screening Check is a statutory assessment which was introduced to Year 1 pupils throughout the country as a quick and easy way to check phonic knowledge. All Year 1 pupils will take the phonics screening check during the week beginning **Monday 6th June 2022**. I am writing to inform you of this date and make you aware of **additional reading homework** which the children will be bringing home every Friday with their reading books starting tomorrow.

The test contains 40 words. Each child will sit one to one with a teacher, who they are already familiar with, and read each word aloud. They will be asked to 'sound out' a word and blend the sounds together. The test will take approximately 10-15 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).

Pseudo Words (Nonsense words)

Pseudo words are words that are phonetically decodable but not actual words with an associated meaning e.g. brip, snorb. These words are included in the check to assess whether your child can decode a word using phonic skills and not their memory. The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien.

Every day, children participate in phonics lessons. In these sessions, children complete activities very similar to the phonics screening check. We will continue to focus on phonics in the weeks leading up to the check, with extra sessions being added to the timetable in order to prepare the children.

There are a number of ways you can help your child at home:

- Listen to your child read as much as possible.
- Read the 8 words (mixture of real and pseudo words) which the children will bring home every week. Please comment in your child's reading records. Children will earn house points if it is evident that they have read the words on the sheet i.e. there will be sound buttons below and there is a comment from an adult at home about how they did when reading the words in their reading records.
- Encourage your child to decode a word. Encourage them to say each sound in the word from left to right.



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- Encourage your child to blend the sounds by pointing and draw 'sound buttons' below to identify the sounds in the word. We use this method in school.
- Use phonics play www.phonicsplay.co.uk. This is a website which is packed with interactive phonics games to help children to learn to hear sounds and blend sounds. We use this in school and some aspects of it are free to use at home.
The QR code for this website is below:



Your child will bring home a 'Speed Sounds Chart' tomorrow. The children use them regularly in school to support them with both reading and writing. This chart shows the letter/s/ which make up each sound and has a rhyme below which tells you how to pronounce the sound. This will help you, at home, when supporting your child with their reading homework activities.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Mrs Spinks.

Yours sincerely,

G Spinks

Year 1 Teacher

