



26 May 2022

Dear Parent or Carer,

As you will be aware, your child will be assessed using the phonics screen check.

**What is the phonics screening check?**

The phonics screening check is a quick and easy check of your child's phonics knowledge. It helps us confirm whether your child has made the expected progress in their early reading. In 2022 the check will take place during the week commencing Monday 6th June (the first week after half-term). Children who are absent during this week will take the check during the following week.

**What are 'non-words'?**

The check will contain a mix of real words and 'non-words' (or 'nonsense words'). Your child will be told before the check that there will be non-words that he or she will not have seen before. Many children will be familiar with this because we already use 'non-words' when we teach phonics. Non-words are important to include because words such as 'vap' or 'jound' are new to all children. Children cannot read the non-words by using their memory or vocabulary; they have to use their decoding skills. This is a fair way to assess their ability to decode.

**After the check**

We will tell you about your child's progress in phonics and how he or she has done in the screening check before the summer holidays. If your child has found the check difficult, we will also tell you what support we have put in place to help him or her improve. We will also show you how you can support your child to take the next step in reading. Children who do not meet the standard in year 1 will retake the check in year 2. All children are individuals and develop at different rates. The screening check ensures that teachers understand which children need extra help with phonic decoding.

If you have any questions about phonics, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Your sincerely,  
Mr C Metcalfe  
**Principal**