



18<sup>th</sup> November 2021

## **Year 1 phonics and early reading**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for attending our recent 'Book and a Bun' sessions. Just to remind you that in June this year your child will take their Year 1 Phonics Screening Check. This is a statutory assessment which assesses whether children can decode i.e. know their sounds and apply them to read real and nonsense words. For example: recognise and say 'ay' and read p-l-ay.

The check will be carried out by a familiar adult, in a calm environment, so that children feel comfortable and can do their best. They will be asked to read 20 words in section one and 20 words in section two. The words become harder as the test progresses and they can contain anywhere between 3 to 5 sounds e.g. s-t-r-aw, ch-a-p-t-er, d-u-s-t.

### **Here are some helpful tips about reading at home with your child:**

1. **Read to your child every day.** Reading to your child and sharing books is so important at this age. You are a role model for your child and you are showing them how fun and important reading is!
2. **Practise sounds and blending!** Your child learns and reviews sounds every day in their phonics lessons. Use the sound mat attached to review the special friends. Then see if your child can read these in words using fred talk e.g. p-l-ay
3. **Listen to your child read!** When your child brings their reading books home they will have read the glossy book at school already. They are bringing this home to practice again a few times until they can read this accurately and fluently. They should be able to 'show off' how well they can read a book which is matched exactly to their phonic knowledge. Please comment on your child's reading in their purple diary.
4. **Use the virtual classroom.** Your child's teacher may send out videos via seesaw for your child to practise. Children can access these independently and they are a great way for your child to review learning.
5. A useful **website** to support your child is [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk). The games give your child the opportunity to practise reading real and nonsense (alien) words, which is in the same style as the phonics screening check.

Many thanks for your continued support and happy reading!

Miss Gay

Early Reading and Phonics lead