

Y1 Phonics Screening Information

INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS AT ST JAMES' SCHOOL

Please come to an information session on Tuesday 23rd May at 2.30 pm to find out more about the year 1 phonics screening here at St James' Church of England School

What is phonics?

There has been a big shift in the past few years in how we teach reading in school. This is having a huge impact and helping many children learn to read and spell. Phonics is recommended as the first strategy that children should be taught in helping them learn to read. Phonics runs alongside other teaching methods to help children decode and learn to read.

Letters and Sounds is a phonics resource published by the Department for Education and Skills. It aims to build children's speaking and listening skills in their own right as well as to prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed and systematic programme for teaching phonic skills for children starting by the age of five, with the aim of them becoming fluent readers by age seven.

We are using Jolly Phonics and the Letters and Sounds document in Reception, Year 1 and 2 to support the children with their reading and phonetic awareness.

[Letters and Sounds Synthetic Phonics Sounds](#)

[Letters and Sounds DFES 2007](#)

[Six Phonic Phases](#)

What is the phonics screening check?

The national phonics screening check was introduced in 2012 to all Year 1 pupils. It is a short, statutory assessment to ensure that children are making sufficient progress in the phonics skills to read words and are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and for learning.

When does the Year 1 phonics screening check take place?

All Year 1 pupils will take the phonics screening check during the week commencing 12 June 2017.

How is the check structured?

It comprises a list of 40 words and non-words, which the children know as 'alien' or 'monster' words. Your child will read one-to-one with their teacher.

Half the words cover phonic skills which are usually covered in Reception, and half the words are based on Year 1 phonics skills.

Does a teacher have to carry out the screening check?

Yes, it is important that a teacher carries out the check with the pupils in our school.

How will the results from the phonics screening check be used?

Schools have to inform parents towards the end of the summer term in Year 1 of their child's results. At St James' Church of England Primary School the results form part of the end of year reporting. All of the children are individuals and develop at different stages. The results of the screening check will assist teachers to identify which children will need further support with decoding.

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. Your child will re-sit the check the following summer term in year 2. .

How can I help my child?

There are a number of things that parents can do to support early reading skill development.

- Let your child see you enjoying reading yourself – they are influenced by you and what you value!
- Immerse your child in a love of reading: share books and magazines with your child, take them to the library to choose books and read to them.
- Make time for your child to read school books to you regularly – encourage them by pointing to the words and ask them about the story they are reading. Hear them read every night.
- Help your child to practise reading key words and sounds when these are sent.
- Communicate with your child's teacher through their Home/School reading journal
- Make up nonsense (alien) words for names of toys or things around them.

Play games online at www.phonicsplay.co.uk and <http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/> or click on [Learning Links](#) for more information.

Do hope this guide is useful, see you on May 23rd

Kind regards

Karen Willis