

North Somercotes Church of England Primary School

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20th September 2018

National Phonics Screening Check

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are writing to inform you about the National Phonics Screening Check which will take place in Key Stage 1 during the summer term. This letter aims to explain this process, in addition to providing you with ideas to help your child with phonics at home.

Who takes the test?

All children in year 1. In addition, any child in year 2 who did not reach the required level when they took the test in year 1 will take the test again in year 2.

What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read. They are taught how to:

- Recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes
- Identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make e.g. sh and oo
- Blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can then use this knowledge to segment and blend new words that they hear or see.

Why phonics?

Research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way – starting with the easiest sounds and progressing through to the most complex – it is the most effective way of teaching young children to read.

What is the phonics screening check?

As you may be aware, the government introduced an annual phonics screening check in 2012. This will further inform our continual assessment of the children’s phonic knowledge and the results of the check will be shared with parents/carers in the end of year report.

It comprises of a list of 40 words that children read one-to-one with a teacher. The list is a combination of both real and made up, non-words which rely purely on using phonics to decode. The non-words are words that have been made up and will be shown with a picture of an imaginary creature.

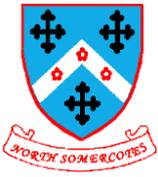
Examples of words: real words

meet	plan	ships	call
grit	trains	shin	week
handy	scrape	trumpet	surprise
newt	slide	brains	finger



Attendance = Achievement





Examples of non – words

tox	blan	elt	geck
thazz	sclak	steck	clinp
quemp	shoik	thene	blust
jound	strupe	snemp	stroft

The phonics screening check will take place during the week commencing Monday 10th June; the children will largely be unaware of it and will enjoy some one-to-one time with their teacher. **Please ensure your child has 100% attendance during this week.**

What are non-words?

Your child will be told during the check which words are non-words (that he/she will not have seen before). Your child will be familiar with this because we already use 'non-words' when teaching phonics in school. 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 as part of the end of year report. 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. You might like to ask your child's class teacher how you can support your child to take the next step in reading. All children are individuals and develop at different rates. The screening check helps teachers understand which children need extra help with phonic decoding.

Helping your child with phonics

At North Somercotes CE Primary we often check phonic development within our approach to the assessment of reading. This screening forms part of our overall assessment procedure. However, 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, read to them regularly, point out texts around you, eg in the street etc.*
- *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*
- *Help your child to practise reading key words and sounds when these are sent home*
- *Remember! We are here to help your child to do their very best*

Free resources can be found at www.phonicsplay.co.uk and www.familylearning.org.uk

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

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Floyd
Headteacher



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