



Charnwood Primary School

Thursday, 08 June 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

Your child will be taking part in the Year 1 Phonics Screening check on **Wednesday 14 June 2017**.

Nationally, all Year 1 pupils will take the phonics screening check during the week beginning 12th June 2017.

What is in the phonics screening check?

It comprises of a list of 40 words and nonsense words. It will assess phonics skills and knowledge learnt through reception and Year 1. Your child will read one to one with a teacher. It will be your child's current teacher so it is a familiar face. They will be asked to 'sound out' a word and blend the sounds together. The check is very similar to tasks the children already complete during phonics lessons.

Is it stressful to test such young children?

The assessment will be age appropriate and the adults involved will all be familiar with it. Our year 1 pupils are familiar with the set up as we are constantly reviewing children's progress in a similar way. Most children will complete the check in about 10-15 minutes. Children who need longer will be given a break in between sections of the check. There will be a few practise words at the beginning to make sure your child understands the activity. We have also been careful to ensure that children are not aware they are being tested.

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 help. Schools are expected to provide extra help and children will then be able to re-take the assessment in Year 2.

How can I help my child?

As we mentioned during the phonics workshop, there are a number of things that parents can do to support early reading development:

- Let your child see you enjoy reading yourself. They are influenced by you and what you do! Immerse your child in a love of reading.
- Make time for your child to read their school book to you.
- With all books, encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend from the left. Use the mantra- 'Look at the letters, make the sound and blend them together'
- We will send home practise materials with your child. Please practise these with them at home. Don't worry if they find it difficult, it is important not to put pressure on them.
- There are many phonic games for children to access on the internet.

We hope this information is useful. I wish all our Year 1 children the very best and thank you for your on-going support.

Yours sincerely,

Ms N Jassat
Head teacher