



Meersbrook Bank Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs G. Harvey

Friday 6th May 2022

Y1 Phonics Screening Check : Information for Parents

Dear Year 1 Parents and Carers,

It is almost time for your child to take part in the Year 1 phonics screening check which all Year 1 children across the country undertake. This 'check' is designed to check whether children have achieved an expected standard in phonics.

What happens in the Screening Check?

Children will be taken one at a time to a quiet space with a member of staff well known to them. They will be asked to use their Phonics skills to read 20 real words and 20 nonsense (alien) words. The nonsense (alien) words they read will be shown with a little alien picture, to let children know that they aren't real words. This ensures that children are using their decoding skills, rather than their knowledge of vocabulary, or word memory.

The screening check only tests decoding, not comprehension skills. The check should take around 10 minutes to complete, depending on the individual child.

Children are frequently assessed in phonics every 6 weeks and as part of this assessment they are asked to recall phonics sounds and read real and alien words, therefore the official screening check will be a familiar experience for them!

What happens after the Phonics Screening Check?

As a school we report the outcomes for all pupils to the local authority. We will also inform you in their end of year report to parents.

What happens next?

Children continue their phonics learning in Y2. Children who do not meet the expected standard in Y1 this term will retake the test in June 2023, as a Year 2.

What can I do to support my child?

We will send home some flashcards and games that you can play with your child. Also, please continue to read paper storybooks (which they have read in their Phonics group at school), as well as Book Bag Books (new books) at home for 10 minutes at least three times a week.

Any Further Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs Crawshaw on Class Dojo.

Kindest Regards,

Mrs B. Crawshaw
Year 1 Teacher & Early Reading Leader

