



## KINGSHURST PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Miss Hunter

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Last June, the children in Y1 were due to take part in a National Phonics Screening Check. However, due to school closures in March this year, because of Covid 19, the check will now be taking place this November. All children in year 2 will be tested.

The phonics screening check will further inform our continual assessment of the children's phonic knowledge.

The check is made up of a list of 40 words that children read one-to-one with a teacher who is familiar to them. The list is a combination of both real and "alien words" which are made up, nonsense words which rely purely on using phonics to decode and will be shown with a picture of an imaginary creature to help them.

The phonics screening check will take place on a one to one with an adult in a relaxed environment and the children will largely be unaware of it being a 'check' as they are already familiar with the process of using phonics to blend words.

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 ensures that teachers understand which children need extra help with phonic decoding.

### **Helping your child with phonics**

Phonics works best with a positive approach and when children are given plenty of encouragement and learn to enjoy reading and books. Parents play a very important part in helping with this.

There are materials available on Oxford Owl to support your child at home. We will also be sending materials home for children to practise.

Here are some simple steps to help your child learn to read through phonics:

**Step 1** - identify 'special friends' (pairs or groups of letters which make one sound)

**Step 2** - Fred talk the sounds (say each sound separately)

**Step 3** - read the word (blend sounds together)



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- Use the speed sounds chart. Point to a sound and ask your child to say the sound.
- Choose 4 sounds a week to display at home that your child is unfamiliar with. Use the sound phrases first to identify the sound and then move onto just saying the correct sound.
- You can then highlight these sounds when you read with your child.
- Practise a mixture of real and nonsense words for your child to practice. An example of a phonics screening check test has been included.
- Make up nonsense words and ask your child to read. Then ask your child to make up a nonsense word for you to read.
- With all books, encourage your child to 'sound out'/'Fred talk' unfamiliar words and then blend the sounds together from left to right rather than looking at the pictures to guess. Once your child has read an unfamiliar word you can talk about what it means and help him or her to follow the story.
- Try to make time to read with your child every day. Grandparents and older brother or sisters can help, too. Encourage your child to blend the sounds all the way through a word.
- Word games like 'I-spy' can also be an enjoyable way of teaching children about sounds and letters. You can also encourage your child to read words from your shopping list or road signs to practise phonics.
- Lots of Fred talk at home!!

If you have any questions, please come and ask.

Many thanks,

The Year 2 Team