



Benhurst Primary School

Y2 Phonics Screening Check Information



'Only my best is good enough for me'

Learning to read through phonics

What is phonics?

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

- recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes;
- identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make - such as "sh" or "oo";
- blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can then use this knowledge to 'de-code' new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.

Why phonics?

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

Almost all children who have good teaching of phonics will learn the skills they need to tackle new words. They can then go on to read any kind of text fluently and confidently, and to read for enjoyment. Children who have been taught phonics also tend to read more accurately than those taught using other methods, such as 'look and say'.

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

The Phonics Screening Check is a quick and easy check of your child's phonic knowledge. Usually, the Screening Check is completed in Year 1, however due to Covid-19, the children will be completing it in Year 2. It helps us, as a school, to identify what the children are doing well and where we need to continue to provide learning/ support.

In 2020, the check will take place during the week commencing **Monday 23rd November**.

How does the check work?

Your child will sit with a teacher they know, which is likely to be Miss Thorpe or Mrs Edgeler, and be asked to read 40 words aloud.

Some of the words they may have read before and some words will be completely new to them.

The check normally takes just a few minutes to complete and there is no time limit. If your child is finding the check a challenge, we can easily stop the check and continue at a later time. The check is carefully designed not to be stressful for your child.

What are 'non-words'?

The check will contain a mix of real words and 'non-words' (or 'pseudo words'). Your child will be told before the check that there will be non-words that they will not have seen before. The children will be familiar with this because we already use 'non-words' when we teach phonics.

Non-words are important to include because words such as "vap" or "jound" are new to all children. Children can't read the non-words by using their memory or vocabulary; they have to use their decoding skills. It is a more accurate way to assess their ability to decode.

After the check

You will be informed of your child's progress in phonics and the result of the screening check in the school report that is given out towards the end of the year.

We will use the information from the Screening Check to support future phonic lessons and any additional support that individual children may need.

Helping your child with phonics

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

Some simple steps to help your child learn to read through phonics:

- You can highlight sounds when you read with your child. Teaching how sounds match with letters is likely to start with individual letters such as 's', 'a' and 't' and then will move on to '2-letter sounds' such as 'ee', 'ch' and 'ck'.
- With all books, encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend the sounds together from left to right as well as using strategies such as looking at the pictures to guess. Once a child has read an unfamiliar word you can talk about what it means and help your child to follow the story.
- Class teachers will also be able to suggest books with the right level of phonics for your child. These books are often called '**decodable readers**' because the story is written with words made up of the letters your child has learnt. Your child will be able to work out new words from their letters and sounds, rather than just guessing.
- Try to make time to read with your child every day. Grandparents and older brothers 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 their phonics.
- **Please also use the Phonics Pack shared on Google Classroom to support your child at home. This includes a parent and carer presentation, phonics sound guidance sheet and pupil decoding practise.**

Useful websites

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com/>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds>

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html

<https://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/literacy.html>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcqqtf>

