



Phonics in Year 1

A guide for parents

What is Phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully. Children are taught how to recognise the sound each letter makes and also the sound that combinations of letters make such as 'ai' and 'oo'. Children are taught to read by decoding the sounds within a word and then blend the sounds together to read the whole word.

Why Phonics?

At St Peter's we believe that good teaching of phonics will enable the children to develop the skill to decode and read new words, thus allowing the children to read with fluency and confidence and most importantly enjoy reading.

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

The National Phonics Screening check is a statutory assessment that was introduced in 2012 to all Year 1 pupils. It is a quick and easy check of your child's phonic knowledge. All Year 1 pupils will take the Phonics Screening Check in the summer term, during the week beginning 6th June 2022.

What does Phonics Screening Check involve?

The assessment comprises of a list of 40 real words and nonsense (alien) words. Your child will read one to one with a teacher. They will be asked to 'sound out' and read each word. The check is very similar to tasks the children already complete during phonics sessions.

What are nonsense or alien words and why are they included?

These are words that are phonetically decodable but not actual words with an associated meaning e.g. brip, gite.

These words are included to assess whether your child can decode and blend a word using their phonic skills and not their memory.

The nonsense words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. Your child will be asked to name the alien by reading the word. This will make the check a little more fun and provides the check with a context for the nonsense word. Children generally find nonsense words amusing, so they will probably enjoy reading these words.

How can I help my child?

There are a number of things that parents can do to support early reading development, including:

- Let your child see you enjoy reading yourself. They are influenced by you and what you do!
- 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 them from left to right rather than looking at pictures to guess.

There are also lots of phonic games and resources for children to access, especially on the computer. Some helpful websites are:

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

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/PicnicOnPluto.html>

<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html>

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

Also, if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to talk to Miss Mitchell or Miss Fletcher.