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Year Two Phonics Screening Check

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Usually by now, all of our Year 2 children would have taken part in a phonics screening check at the end of Year 1. However, because of the national lockdown, our class didn't get the chance to do this test. The Government has therefore asked all current year 2s to take the test this term instead. This will happen sometime in November. The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.

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What Happens During the Screening?

The test contains 40 words. Each child will sit one-to-one and read each word aloud to Mrs Smith. The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child, although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace. The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words). Pseudo words are included because they will be new to all pupils; they do not favour children with a good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words.

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How Can I Help My Child at Home?

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise - get them to have a 'good guess'.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each one, e.g. /c/ in cat, /p/ in pat, /ng/ in sing, /ee/ in been.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.

Reporting to Parents

By the end of the summer term all schools must report each child's results to their parents so we will write to you informing you whether your child has met the standard threshold. If your child does not achieve the expected level they will retake the test at the end of Year 2.

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