



Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

What is Phonics?

Children begin to learn phonics (sounds) in Early Years starting in Nursery. They will then begin to learn the letters that represent each of the sounds and these are used to read and spell words.

How often is Phonics taught at The Avenue?

In Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children take part in a 25 minute Phonics lesson every day. The knowledge and skills taught in these daily lessons are a key part to their reading journey.

What happens during the Screening Check?

The Phonics Screening Check is designed to confirm whether children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.

The test contains 40 words. Each child will sit one-to-one and read each word aloud to their class teacher. 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). The words will be an accumulation of all the sounds they have learnt since beginning Phonics.

Pseudo Words

Pseudo words (nonsense words) will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This provides the children with a context for the pseudo word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have. 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.

When is the Phonics Screening Check?

Children in Year 1 throughout the country take part in a Phonics Screening Check during the same week in June. Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when in Year 1 or they have not taken the test before.

When will I find out my child's result?

You will receive your child's result in their end of Year 1 Annual Report. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in Year 2.

How can I help my child at home?

Firstly, continue to read at least 4 times a week with the book your child has brought home. The school reading books are carefully chosen for your child based on the sounds they have been learning in their Sounds-Write Phonics lesson. Therefore, practise at home will consolidate their understanding from class.

Later in Year 1, children will begin to bring home packs of flashcard words for them to practise reading aloud at home. They will contain real words and nonsense words. Encourage your child to segment the sounds first, and then blend the sounds together.