



Rushey Green Primary School



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Dear Parents

You may be aware of the '**Phonics Screening Check**' that was introduced by the Department of Education for all year 1 children. The purpose of the Year 1 phonics screening check is to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard.

The Phonics Screening Check will be taking place week beginning Monday 15th June 2015

The Phonics Screening Check consists of a list of 40 words, which children read one-to-one with their teacher. Half of the words are real and the other half are nonsense words (non-words.) Children who can read non-words will have the skills to decode any unfamiliar word. Non-words are included to make sure they check assessed phonic decoding as intended. As non-words are new to all children, they do not favour pupils with a good vocabulary knowledge or large visual memory of words.

Children who have not reached the expected standard in the phonics screening check at the end of Year 1 will receive further support from the school to ensure they can improve their phonic decoding skills.

They will also have an opportunity for a retake of the phonics screening check in the following year – in June of Year 2.

Please see attached sheet for further information and contact me if you would like to discuss this.

Many thanks for all your continued support.

N K Badar



Information on the Phonics Screening Test



The **phonics screening check** introduced in 2012 is a statutory assessment for all children in year 1 (typically aged 6). All state-funded schools with a year 1 cohort must administer the checks.

Children who did not meet the standard in year 1 or who were not tested are re-checked at the end of year 2 (typically aged 7).

The purpose of the Year 1 phonics screening check was to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard.

The design of the Phonics Screening Check

The phonics screening check is a list of 40 words and non-words, which are divided into two sections – one with simple word structures of three or four letters, and one with more complex word structures of five or six letters.

The Phonics Screening Test

Your child will be asked to read one-on-one with a teacher. Non-words (or nonsense words, or pseudo words) are a collection of letters that will follow phonics rules your child has been taught, but don't mean anything – your child will need to read these with the correct sounds to show that they understand the phonics rules behind them.



The teacher administering the check with your child and will give them a few practice words to read first – including some non-words – so they understand more about what they have to do.

Each of the non-words is presented with a picture of a monster / alien, as if the words were their name (and so your child doesn't think the word is a mistake because it doesn't make sense!).

The Phonics Screening Check is meant to show how well your child can use the phonics skills they've learned up to the end of Year 1, and to identify students

who need extra phonics help.

When will it take place?

Schools will administer the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check the week beginning 15 June 2015.

How can I help my child?

You can help your child prepare for their Phonics Screening Check by going over the phonics they've learned in Reception and Year 1. Read new books and stories with them where they will be introduced to new words that they'll have to sound out.

