

Year 1 Phonics Screening

Information and Guidance for Parents

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 different combinations of sounds that letters make
- blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word

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

Why is there a phonics screening check?

The national phonics screening check was introduced in 2012 to all Year 1 pupils. It is short, statutory assessment to confirm whether individual pupils have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. It aims to identify the children who need extra help so that they can be given support by school to improve their reading skills. At Kingsley we already identify children and provide early intervention support; however we must comply with the statutory requirement.

Who is it for?

Year 1 pupils will take the Phonics Screening Check in June.

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

It is a quick and straight forward check of your child's phonic knowledge. It helps school confirm whether your child has made the expected progress.

- Your child will complete it with his/her teacher or team leader and be asked to read 40 words aloud.
- Your child may have read some of these words before, while others will be completely new.
- The check will contain a mix of real words and non-words (nonsense/pseudo words - we call these monster/made up words)
- The check should be an enjoyable activity for your child which takes no more than a few minutes to complete.

What are non-words? (Monster words)

Non-words are important to include because words such as 'vap' or 'jound' are new for all children. Children cannot read the non-words using their memory or vocabulary, therefore they have to use their decoding skills. This is a fair way to check your child's phonic knowledge.

What happens after the check?

Schools have to inform parents of their child's results towards the end of the summer term in Year 1. If your child has not met expected standard then they will need extra help. At Kingsley we provide small intervention group work and we will keep parents informed of their child's progress in all aspects of reading including phonic development. Your child will be able to retake the assessment in Year 2.

How can I help my child?

At Kingsley we regularly check phonic development within our approach to the assessment of reading. This screening forms part of our overall assessment procedure. However, there are a number of things that parents can do to support early reading skill development.

- Let your child see you enjoy reading yourself - they are influenced by you and can see how reading is important.
- Encourage your child to enjoy reading: share books and magazines with your child, take them to the library to choose books, read to them regularly, point out texts around you e.g. in the street, at the shops on food packaging etc.
- Ask your child questions about what they are reading.
- Try to make time for your child to read their reading book to you regularly. Talk about what they are reading and encourage the phonics first approach to decode unfamiliar words-sounds, blend then read the word.
- Communicate with your child's teacher through the home reading record.
- Help your child practise their key words from phases 2-5 in their key word book.

If you require any further help or support please speak to the class teacher or Mrs Ord (Team Leader). Thank-you for your continued support

Key Stage 1 Team