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Headteacher: Ann Robinson

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you about the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check, which all Year 1 children in England take in June.

The Phonics Screening Check is a short, statutory assessment set by the Standards and Testing Agency on behalf of the Department for Education. It is designed to assess your child's phonics knowledge and their ability to decode (sound out) words using the skills they have been taught in school.

During the check, your child will be asked to read 40 words aloud to their teacher. Some of these are real words and some are "alien" (nonsense) words. The alien words help to check that children can apply their phonics skills to unfamiliar words, rather than relying on memory.

The check:

- Takes place during the school day in a quiet, familiar setting
- Is completed one-to-one with your child's teacher
- Is not timed but usually takes around 5–10 minutes
- Is designed to be a positive and low-pressure experience

There is no need for any special preparation at home. The best way to support your child is to continue reading regularly together and encouraging them to use their phonics skills when they come across unfamiliar words. The Year One homework will also provide lots of opportunity for continued practise.

You will be informed of your child's result in their end-of-year report. If a child does not meet the expected standard, they will receive additional support in Year 2 and will have the opportunity to retake the check.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Harris  
Year One Lead

