



WHITMORE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Phonics Screening Check Update

As you will probably be aware, our Year 2 children would have undertaken the Phonics Screening Check in June whilst they were in Year 1.

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Phonics Screening Check for Year 1 children was cancelled at the end of last term. The Government has decided that the current Year 2 children need to complete the test and this will take place during this half term.

We will work with each child individually which should take around 8-10 minutes. The check will be made up of 40 words, 20 real words and 20 pseudo (alien) words. The words all use sounds that the children have been learning and revising in their daily phonics lessons.

Over the course of Year 1 last year, children were encouraged to sound out the words, spotting digraphs (2 letters that make 1 sound) and trigraphs (3 letters that make 1 sound) where appropriate in the words and then blend them back together to say the word aloud. E.g. sh-i-p, ship or n-igh-t, night. They have continued to work hard on their phonics knowledge this year too and have been practising daily as part of their Phonics lesson. This means the children are familiar with the context.

Any children who do not pass the Phonics Screening Test this half term will have another chance to complete it during the Summer Term.

Accompanying this letter is a Parent FAQs sheet to help answer any questions you may have. You can also speak to any member of the Year 2 team.

A full list of sounds that may be checked are listed below.

Yours sincerely

Year 2 Team



Phonics screening check

What is the phonics screening check?

All **year 1** pupils in England take the phonics screening check. It's done in school by our staff.

This year, all **year 2** pupils will also be doing the check – this is because the check was cancelled last school year due to COVID-19.

The check is made up of 40 words, and usually lasts 5-10 minutes. Some words are real words, and others are nonsense, or 'alien' words that help to show if pupils can work out how to decode words they haven't seen before.

The check helps us to see:

- How pupils are progressing in phonics
- Where to provide additional teaching and support

The check may not be appropriate for some pupils. We'll let you know if we think this is the case for your child.

When will it be happening?

Year 1 will do the phonics screening check in **June 2022**.

Year 2 will do the check during the second half of the **autumn term**.

Do we get to know the results?

We have to report the results to local authority by the end of the autumn term. We'll also let you know the results at the end of the autumn term too.

If your child does not meet the expected standard in the check, they'll get to have another go in the summer term. It's normally nothing to worry about.

Do we need to prepare at home?

No – your child is being taught phonics at school and no special work at home is needed.

However, you can always help your child by:

- Reading to and with them
- Playing sound and reading games
- Teaching them new words, and showing them how they're written