



Phonics Screening



A guide for parents

What is Phonics?

- Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skillfully. Children are taught **how** to recognise the sounds each individual letter makes and to identify the sounds that different contributions of letters make such as 'sh' and 'oo'.
- Children are taught to read by breaking down words into separate sounds or 'phonemes'. They are then taught how to blend these sounds together to read the whole word.
- At Darley children are grouped into phonics groups according to their knowledge of sounds. They then receive half an hour a day of dedicated Phonics teaching.

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

- The Phonics Screening Check is a statutory assessment that began in 2012.
- All children in Year 1 must be tested.
- Any child who did not take the test or did not pass in their Year 1 year will have to take it in Year 2.
- The Phonics Screening Check will take place during the week beginning 13th June.
- The check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard.

What will the Phonics Screening Check look like?

Practice sheet: Real words	Practice sheet: Pseudo words
in	ot 
at	vap 
beg	osk 
sum	ect 

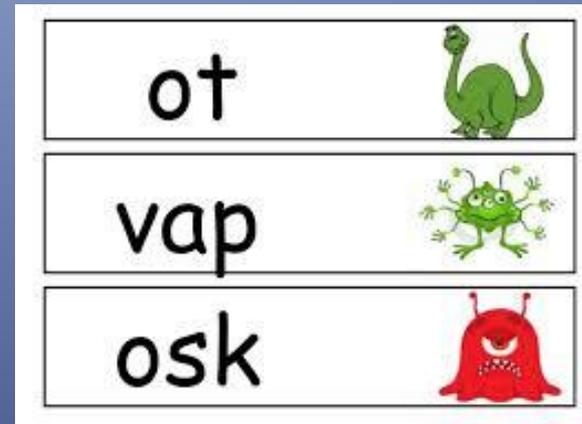
What is in the phonics screening check?

- It comprises of a list of 40 words and nonsense words. It will assess phonics skills and knowledge learnt through reception and year 1. Your child will read one-one with a teacher
- Your child will read up to 4 words per page and they will probably do the check in 10-15 minutes.
- They will be asked to 'sound out' a word and blend the sounds together. The check is very similar to tasks the children already complete during phonics lessons.

What are Nonsense or Pseudo words and why are they included?

- These are words that are phonetically decodable but not actual words with an associated meaning e.g. brip, snorb.
- These words are included in the check specifically to assess whether you child can decode a word using phonic skills and not their memory.

- The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien.



- Crucially it does not provide any clues, so your child has to be able to decode it. Children generally find nonsense amusing so they will probably enjoy reading these words.

How will the results from the screening be used?

- You will be informed of your child's progress in phonics and how he or she has done in the screening check, towards the end of the summer term.
- All of the children are individuals and develop at different stages. The screening check ensures that teachers understand which children need support with decoding.

What happens if a child struggles with the screening check?

- The screening check will identify children who have phonic decoding skills below the level expected for the end of year 1 and who therefore need help. Schools are expected to provide extra help and children will then be able to re-take the assessment in year 2.

How can I help my child?

- There are a number of things that parents can do to support early reading development:
 - ☐ Let your child see you enjoy reading yourself. They are influenced by you and what you do!
 - ☐ Make time for your child to read their school book to you/grandparents/older siblings
 - ☐ With all books, encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend from left to right rather than looking at pictures to guess

- Play games like I-spy, get them to read your shopping list, encourage them to sound out names on signposts.
- On line games can be very helpful
- [www.phonicsplay](http://www.phonicsplay.com)
- www.ictgames.com
- www.letters-and-sounds.com
- In addition we will be sending home mini screening booklets for you to work through with your child.