



Hamsey Green

Primary School

Phonics Screening Check

Thursday 30th January 2020

What Is Phonics?

At Hamsey Green the children are taught phonics daily (starting at the beginning of Reception). We follow a structure programme which teaches children letters and the sounds (phonemes) they make.

The children use this knowledge to read and spell words. Children can then see the purpose of learning sounds.

These can immediately be **blended** for reading to make simple CVC words (consonant, vowel, consonant) e.g. s-a-p-i-n.

Alongside this, children develop **segmenting** for skills;



What Is The Phonics Screening Check?

Children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the same week in June. (Any child who does not achieved the required result when in Year 1, will resit the test in Year 2.) In exceptional cases, Head teachers can decide whether it is appropriate for an individual to take the phonics screening check.

The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt sufficient phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard. It is not a test of reading, as it only looks at phonics, without any element of comprehension or other reading skills.

What Happens During The Test?



The test contains 40 words.

Each child will sit one to one and read each word aloud to a teacher. We are planning that Mrs Johnson will administer the test this year as she works across both classes, so is familiar with all your children. Mrs Johnson has been trained to administer the test and has been externally moderated, thus validating her practice.

The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child; although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace.

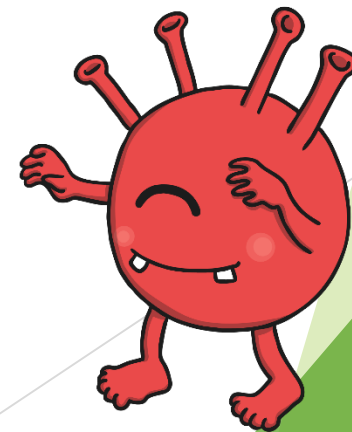
The children are allowed to have a break during the test and do not have to read them all in

Pseudo Words (Nonsense Words)

The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words).

The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This makes it obvious to the child that the word is a “made-up” rather than real word.

Pseudo words are included because they will be new to all pupils; they do not favour children with a good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words.



Example Of The Check

Practice sheet: Real Words

beg

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at

[twinkl.co.uk](https://www.twinkl.co.uk)

sum

[twinkl.co.uk](https://www.twinkl.co.uk)

in

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Practice sheet: Pseudo Words

vap



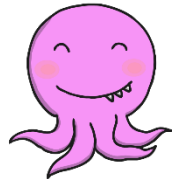
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Reporting

Schools have to submit their results to the local authority at the end of the two week testing period. Once the pass mark has been released, you will then be notified of your child's result (usually by the end of the Summer term) and whether or not they have met the standard threshold, ie passed the test.

As mentioned previously, children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in Year 2.



How Are The Results Used?

Results from the check will be used by schools to analyse their own performance and for Ofsted to use in inspections.

We constantly track and monitor your child's progress, so there are rarely any surprises in the results.

How Can You Help Your Child At Home?

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise - get them to have a 'good guess'.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right, blending the sounds together. If your child is still struggling, model the blending for them and encourage them to copy.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.

How We Are Preparing Your Child?

- The children are practising these skills daily, in ability groups (as they did last year in Reception).
- The children have already had a few practises at past tests, so they will be very familiar with the format.
- We do not use the word "test" and the children usually enjoy having their turn. It should in no way be a stressful experience for them, just part of their usual school day.

You can discuss your child's progress individually with your child's class teacher at our next parent's consultations in March. However if you have any concerns, please make an appointment to come in and discuss them.