



BROOK INFANT SCHOOL
AND NURSERY

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10.11.20

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, during the Summer Term in Year One, the children should have taken part in a phonics screening assessment. As this didn't happen in the summer term due to school lockdown, the government have asked all children in Year Two to take the phonics screening check before the end of this term. This screening aims to check the children's ability to identify the different graphemes in words and blend these together in order to read the word. The words the children have to read are a mixture of 20 real words and 20 'alien' words. The alien words are included to test their segmenting and blending skills.

All children will therefore be sitting this in the week beginning the 22nd November. We have spent the last term overlearning all phonics taught in Year One and extending the children's deeper understanding. If your child needs more time to embed this learning there will be another chance to do the screening check in the summer term.

Phonic decoding is **only one** of the methods used for reading. Some of our children are working beyond the decoding and blending stage of their reading and therefore find decoding and blending not needed for their understanding. The phonics screening is designed for all children to decode and blend the words hence the use of alien words that can't be read by sight.

How to support your child at home?

There are lots of things that you can do to support your child in accessing this screening check.

- When reading with your child try looking for digraphs, trigraphs and adjacent consonants in the text. Talk about what they can see and what sound that makes.

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- Play online games to support decoding and blending

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zgnrf82>

<https://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/spookySounds/index.html>

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com/uk/game/phonics-frog?phase=5>

- Try adding sound buttons to words to support your child's ability to locate the digraphs within words and how they can chunk the word into bitesize chunks. (see booklet to support your understanding)

To be able to achieve well this check they need to access all of phase 5 phonics, so we felt that it was beneficial to send home a phonic booklet that supports this (please see your child's book bag). We have found that children learn best doing little and often, so please don't do the whole book at once! We therefore ask you to focus on a little bit a day as you read through, making sure that you use decoding to support your child, whilst also supporting them to locate the digraphs/trigraphs within the words.

If you would like to see what these phonic screening checks look like? Why not access them on the government website where you can find previous old papers.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/809986/2019_phonics_pupils_materials_standard.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/715823/2018_phonics_pupils_materials_standard.pdf.pdf

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/621157/STA177753p_2017_phonics_screening_check_pupils_materials_-_standard.pdf

We have been really surprised with the children's ability to recall the sounds for the digraphs and their ability to retain it. And more importantly to use their phonics. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to come and see us.

Thank you for your continued support,

The Year Two Team.