



## **Phonics screening check information for parents**

### **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.

The check is made up of 40 words, and usually lasts 5 to 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 the week of **12 to 16 June 2023**.

### **Do we get to know the results?**

We have to report the results to Suffolk County Council by Friday 21 July. We'll also let you know the results in your child's end of year report.

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

The results don't count towards any league tables.

### **Do we need to prepare at home?**

Phonics works best when children are given plenty of encouragement and learn to enjoy reading and books. Parents play a very important part in helping with this.

You can then highlight these sounds when you read with your child. Teaching how sounds match with letters is likely to start with individual letters such as 's', 'a' and 't' and then will move on to two-letter sounds such as 'ee', 'ch' and 'ck'.

With all books, encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend the sounds together from left to right rather than looking at the pictures to guess. Once your child has read an unfamiliar word you can talk about what it means and help them to follow the story.

### **Contact the school**

If you have any questions or want to talk further about the phonics screening check, please contact us by email: [admin@st-pancras.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-pancras.suffolk.sch.uk)