



Building Personal Success



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 2 Phonics Screening Test – Postponed from Summer 2021

The Standards and Testing Agency (STA) have announced that all Year 2 pupils will sit the Phonics Screening Check this term. Due to the disruption to the pupils' learning in Year 1 (caused by Covid19 and the lockdown), all pupils missed the check in the summer term. At Brampton, the Phonics Leader, along with the Year 2 Year Group Leader will carry out the phonics screening, with Year 2, at the end of this term. In the weeks leading up to the screening, the teachers and the children will be working hard to boost their growing phonetic knowledge.

Parents may have some questions about the check, such as: 'What is it?' 'How is it scored?' and perhaps most importantly, 'What can I do to help prepare my child?'

Here are a few pointers which will help to answer these questions...

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

The Phonics Screening Check is a mandatory Government short reading activity to show how well each child can use the phonics skills that they've learned up to the end of Year 1. The Department for Education defines the check as a "short, light-touch assessment" that takes about five minutes to complete.

What does the Phonics Screening Check consist of?

The check consists of **40 real words and non-words** that each child will be asked to read, one-on-one, with a familiar teacher. Non-words (or alien words) are a collection of sounds that will follow the phonic rules the children have been taught, but do not mean anything and therefore, cannot be memorised – each child will need to use their decoding skills in order to read an alien word.

The 40 words and non-words are divided into two sections – one with simple word structures of three or four letters, and the second with more complex word structures containing digraphs and trigraphs. The teacher administering the check will give the children a few practice words to read first – including some non-words – so they understand more about what they have to do. Each of the non-words is presented with a picture of an alien so the children can immediately identify it as an alien word.

Does my child have to take it?

Yes, the Phonics Check must be taken by all Year 2 pupils in the country.

How will my child be scored?

Each child will be scored against a national standard, and the main result will be whether or not they fall below, within or above this standard. The 'pass threshold' has been 32 every year, which means the children have to read at least 32 words out of 40 correctly. Parents will be informed how their child did at the end of the term, but the schools' results will not be published. If a child's score falls below the standard, they will be given extra phonics teaching and support and will re-take the Phonics Screening Check at the end of Year 2 in June 2022.

What are schools doing to support the children?

The children participate in daily RWI lessons and are given support to ensure they are prepared for the Phonics Screening Check.

What can I do to help my child?

You can help your child prepare for their Phonics Screening Check by going over the phonics they've learned in Reception and Year 1. You can also continue to read new and familiar books and stories with them, where they will be introduced to new words that they will have to sound out. Role-model and encourage them to enjoy reading and to see new and unfamiliar words as an exciting challenge.

Here are some helpful websites with fun word building interactive games that your child may enjoy:

www.phonicsplay.com

www.ictgames.com/literacy.html

www.ruthmiskin.com

Should you have any further questions or queries concerning the Phonics Screening Check, myself and Miss Zainab are happy to answer any questions.

Yours faithfully,

Miss K Tucker

RWI Lead