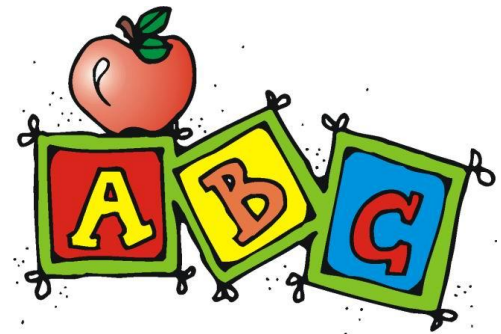


Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

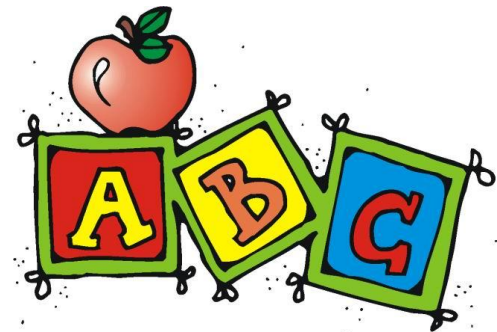


What is the phonics screening check?



The phonics screening check is a short assessment taken by all Year 1 pupils in the Summer Term to confirm whether individual pupils have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard.

It will identify the children who need extra help so they are given further support to improve their reading skills in Year 2.



How does the check work?



We will test each child one at a time, working through the class.

They will be in a quiet room away from the other children and any distractions.

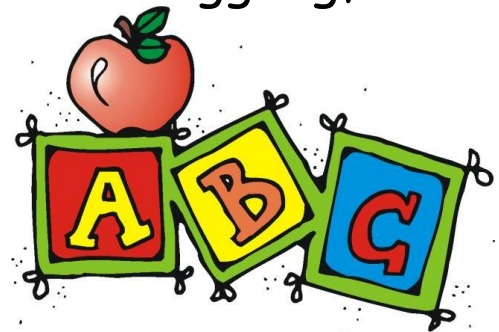
They will be asked to read 40 words aloud.

Your child may have read some of the words before, while others will be completely new.



The check normally takes just a few minutes to complete but there is no time limit. If your child is struggling, we will stop the test.

The check is carefully designed not to be stressful for your child.



The Words

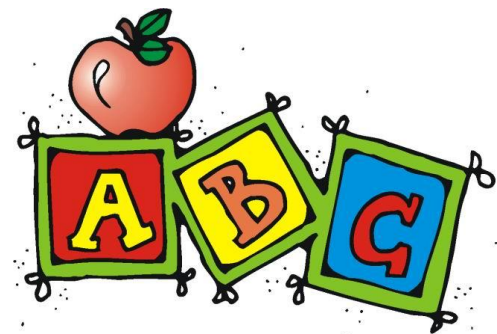


The check will contain a mixture of 20 real words and 20 'alien words' (nonsense words). Your child will be told before the check that there will be 'alien' words that they will have not seen before.

'Alien' words are important because they ensure that children are not just relying on memory or vocabulary. It tests their decoding skills.

Children must blend the word back together after they have sounded it out to score a mark. We are not allowed to prompt them to blend, they have to do that automatically themselves.

They can correct themselves if they read a word incorrectly, but again, this can not be prompted.



Reading the words



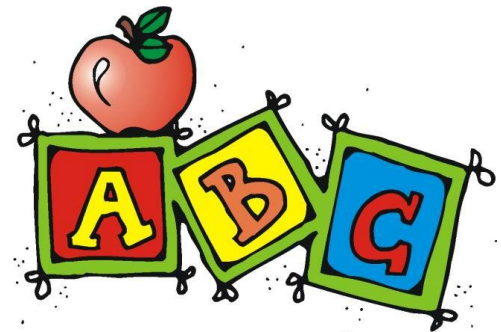
It is really important that your child sounds out the words carefully and slowly, before blending it. They can do this in their head if they prefer.

Confident children may read the 'alien' word 'osk' as 'ask' or 'fam' as 'farm'.

Even with some of the familiar words, children can often read what they think the word says, because they presume to know it, rather than sounding it out and decoding it accurately, e.g. reading 'send' as 'sand'.



We therefore tell them at the start that they must sound out each word carefully.

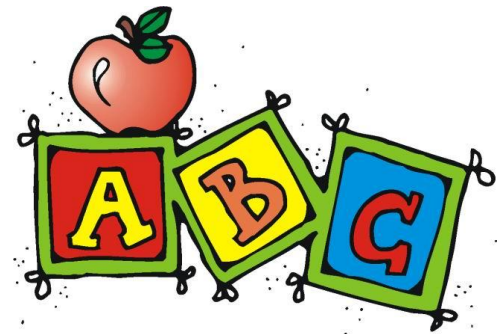


After the Check



You will be informed by the school of your child's results in the end of year report.

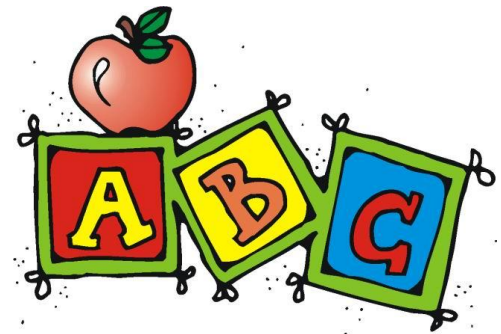
The expected pass level does vary each year but for the last few years it has been 32 out of 40. This is not confirmed until we receive the results.



Not met the expected standards



If your child has not met the expected standards in the check, they will retake the test when they are in Year 2.



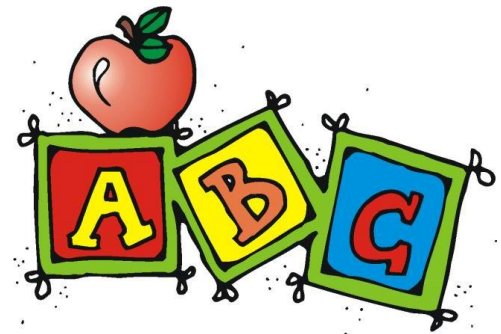
How we support the children at Redhill



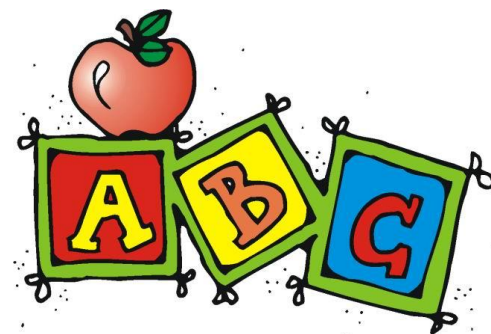
All Infant pupils take part in a daily phonics session with the teacher / teaching assistant.

All children have a phonics folder and are tested each week on their ability to read sounds and words.

They participate in a Guided Reading session and are listened to one-to one by the teacher / teaching assistant every week.



Children complete many different screening tests throughout Year 1. I will keep you updated about their progress over the year.



Please don't worry!



Remember, this check is not designed to be stressful to children or parents!

The children will have had lots of opportunities to practise in school and so should be quite comfortable with the official check in June.

