

# A Guide for Parents...

## • • • • Phonics Screening Check • • • •

### What is Phonics?

Children at John Perry begin to learn phonics (sounds) in Early Years both Nursery and Reception. Once children begin learning sounds, these sounds are used orally to identify and make words. They will then begin to learn the letters which make each of the sounds and these are used to read and spell.

For this reason the first initial sounds that are taught are 's', 'a', 't', 'p', 'i', 'n'. These can immediately be blended for reading simple CVC words (consonant, vowel, consonant) e.g. 'sat' 'pin'. Children then develop segmenting for writing; breaking the word into sounds to spell it out.

### What is the Phonics Screening Check?

This year children in Year 2 will be taking part in the Phonics Screen Check in November 2020. . This is to replace the Screening check that would normally have taken place at the end of Year 1. The Phonics Screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard.

### What happens during the screening?

The test contains 40 words. Each child will sit one-to-one and read each word aloud to a familiar adult. The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child, although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace. The list of words the children will read will be a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words), sometimes referred to as 'Alien words'.

### Pseudo Words (Nonsense words)

The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien (please see previous year's examples, available on the school website). This provides the children with a context for the pseudo word that is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have. Pseudo words are included because they will be new to all pupils; they do not favour children with good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words.

### Reporting to Parents

By the end of the summer term you will receive a letter telling you the results of your child's phonic screening. The letter will also confirm if your child has met the threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level in November, will retake the test in June.



### What can I do to help my child?

The following are a variety of free online resources that will help both you and your child to understand and apply the 44 possible phonemes used in the screening and reading in general.

There is a pronunciation guide along with possible 'Alien/Pseudo' words which will help to put the sounds into context.

#### Oxford Reading Owl:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/learn-to-read-phonics/>

#### Phonics Play:

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/InteractiveResources.htm>

#### YouTube – phoneme pronunciation:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=18&v=UCI2mu7URBc&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=18&v=UCI2mu7URBc&feature=emb_logo)

## Phonemes

Here are the main phonemes (sounds) that children are expected to know by the end of Year 1. Nearly all words on the Phonics Screening will use a selection of these. Children will be expected to be able to identify them within words in order to segment and blend the word together for reading.

|   |   |   |   |   |  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| s<br>  | t<br>  | p<br>  | n<br>  | m<br>  | a<br>   | e<br>   | i<br>   | o<br>   |
| g<br>  | d<br>  | ck<br> | r<br>  | h<br>  | u<br>   | ai<br>  | ee<br>  | igh<br> |
| b<br>  | f<br>  | l<br>  | j<br>  | v<br>  | oa<br>  | oo<br>  | oo<br>  | ar<br>  |
| w<br>  | x<br>  | y<br>  | z<br>  | qu<br> | or<br>  | ur<br>  | ow<br>  | oi<br>  |
| ch<br> | sh<br> | th<br> | th<br> | ng<br> | ear<br> | air<br> | ure<br> | er<br>  |

## Alien (Pseudo) Words

Here are some examples of the sort of Alien words that might appear on the Phonics Screening. Try asking your child to sound them out. Remember to look for any familiar diagraphs or trigraphs first.

|   |   |
|---|---|
|  ect  |  shog  |
|  jat  |  stip  |
|  yod  |  bulm  |
|  keb  |  quock |
|  toin |  voisk |

## Useful Vocab:

**Phoneme** – the single sound made by a letter or a group of letters (e.g.) s or igh

**Blending** – when the phonemes are said in order together to make a word (e.g.) c-a-t becomes cat.

**Segmenting** - when a word is broken down into its individual phonemes (e.g.) shop becomes sh-o-p.

**Diagraph** – two letters that when written together make one sound (e.g.) c and h when written together make a ch sound as in church.

**Trigraph** – As above only using three letters for (e.g.) igh as in l-igh-t, light.

**Sound Buttons** – these are a series of dots, lines or 'hooks' that can be used under words in order to help segment it into its basic phonemes (e.g.)

f i sh or shape  


**Split diagraph** – these are phonemes which although split are still pronounced as one sound (for example) i-e, a-e, e-e, o-e and u-e as in hike, cake, centipede, home and huge.

**'Alien' word** – this is what a pseudo word is sometimes referred to as. In the screening check the made up word is accompanied with a picture of an alien.

## More information

If you have any questions or require more information, please ring the school office and make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher or look at the resources uploaded onto the school website.

**Thank you for your support.**