This booklet has been produced to try to answer any questions or queries parents and carers have about Phonics.

What is Phonics?

- Children have a daily phonics lesson that starts when they are in Reception
- Children are taught to read by breaking down words into separate **sounds** or 'phonemes' and then taught to **blend** these sounds together to read the whole word. E.g. **c-a-t cat** or **t r ai n train**, here there are two letters but one sound.

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

- Every Year 1 child in the country will be taking a statutory Phonics Screening Check in the same week in June.
- The check will be very similar to tasks the children already complete during phonics lessons.
- The focus of the check is to provide evidence of children's decoding and blending skills, not to test their vocabulary.

How and when will it be conducted?

- The phonics check will be carried out in early June.
- Teachers will conduct the screening check with the children.
- The children will complete the check, one to one, in a quiet area of school.
- We are not permitted to indicate to the children at the time whether they have correctly sounded out/or blended the word.
- Each check will take 5-10 minutes to complete.
- They will be asked to 'sound out' a word and blend the sounds together e.g. **d-o-g dog**.

- The check will consist of 40 words and non-words. Children will be told that some words are real and some words are 'alien' these have a corresponding alien image.
- The children have encountered these types of words with alien pictures before so therefore know they are not real.
- It is designed so that children of all abilities can take part.

How will I find out about my child's progress?

The phonics results, along with Teacher Assessments of attainment, are sent home at the end of the summer term. Children who do not meet the pass mark will re-sit the Phonics Screening Check in Year 2.

How can I support my child?

Phonics is not the only way you become a good reader. Continue to read with your child and encourage them to:

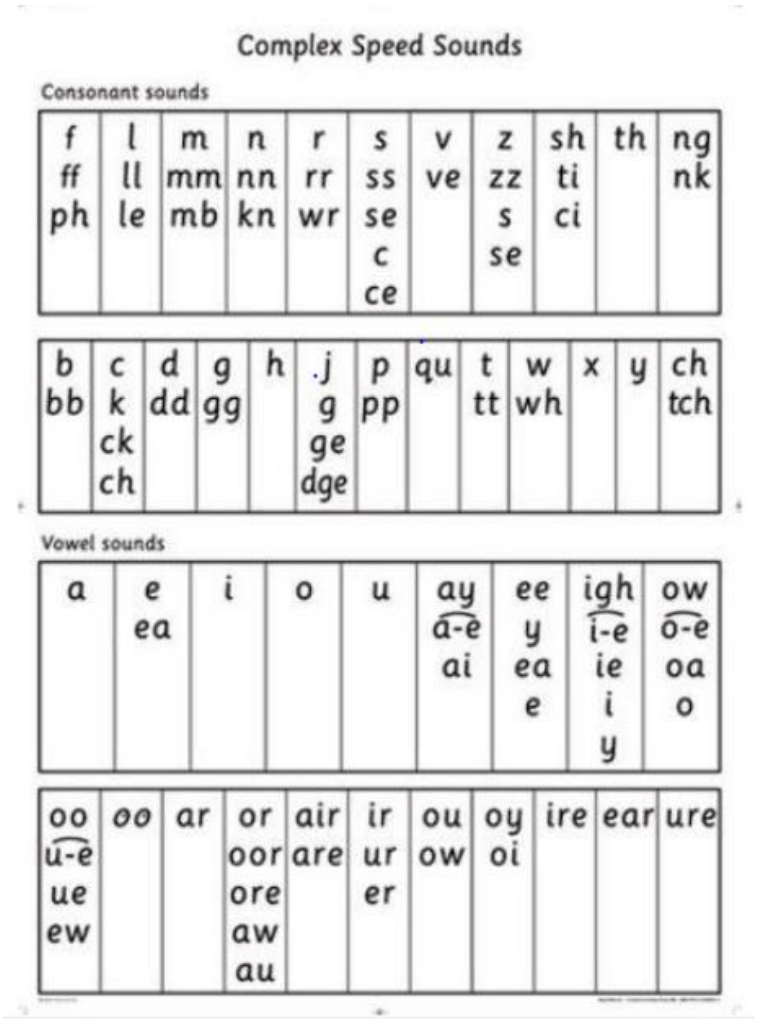
- Sound out and look for sounds that go together
- Re read to check it makes sense
- Ask questions about the book
- Most importantly, **enjoy reading!**

- Children can practise their phonics by playing games online
  www.phonicsplay.co.uk
  www.phonicsbloom.com
  www.home.oxfordowl.co.uk



If you would like any further information about phonics, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

These are the sounds covered.



Complex Speed Sounds

Consonant sounds

f ff ph	l ll le	m mm mb	n nn kn	r rr wr	s ss se c ce	v ve	z zz s se	sh ti ci	th	ng nk

b bb	c k ck ch	d dd	g gg	h	j g ge dge	p pp	qu	t tt	w wh	x	y	ch tch

Vowel sounds

a	e ea	i	o	u	ay a-e ai	ee y ea e	igh i-e ie i y	ow o-e oa o

oo u-e ue ew	oo	ar	or oor ore aw au	air are	ir ur er	ou ow	oy oi	ire	ear	ure

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Everyone can shine

A Guide to Phonics Screening for Parents and Carers