#### **National Phonics Screening Test**

I am writing to inform you about the National Phonics Screening Test which will take place in Key Stage 1 during the week beginning Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June. This letter aims to explain this process, in addition to providing you with ideas to help your child with phonics at home.

#### Who takes the test?

All children in year 1. In addition, any child in year 2 who did not reach the required level when they took the test in year 1 will take the test again in year 2. If for any reason, we feel that there is a valid reason why your child should not take the test in Year 1, the class teacher will discuss this with you. Please note, this is only done in exceptional circumstances and your child would still be eligible to take the retake when they are in Year 2.

#### What is phonics?

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read. They are taught how to:

- Recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes
- Identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make e.g. sh and oo 

  Blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can then use this knowledge to segment and blend new words that they hear or see.

#### Why phonics?

Research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way – starting with the easiest sounds and progressing through to the most complex – it is the most effective way of teaching young children to read.

#### What is the phonics screening check?

As you may have already heard, the government introduced an annual phonics screening check. This will further inform our continual assessment of the children's phonic knowledge and the results of the check will be shared with parents/carers in the end of year report.

It comprises of a list of 40 words that children read one-to-one with a teacher. The list is a combination of both real and made up, non-words which rely purely on using phonics to decode. The non-words are words that have been made up and will be shown with a picture of an imaginary creature to help them.

The phonics screening check will take place on a one to one but the children will largely be unaware of it being a test and have already participated in some practice ones.

#### What are nonsense words?

Your child will be told during the check which words are nonsense words (that he/she will not have seen before). Your child will be familiar with this because we already use 'nonsense-words' when teaching phonics in school. Nonsense-words are important to include because words such as 'vap' or 'jound' are new to all children. Children cannot read the non-words by using their memory or vocabulary; they have to use their decoding skills. This is a fair way to assess their ability to decode.

#### After the check

We will tell you about your child's progress in phonics and how he or she has done in the screening check as part of the end of year report. If your child has found the check difficult, we will also tell you what support we have put in place to help him or her improve. You might like to ask your child's class teacher how you can support your child to take the next step in reading. All children are individuals and develop at different rates. The screening check ensures that teachers understand which children need extra help with phonic decoding.

#### Helping your child with phonics

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. Some simple steps to help your child learn to read through phonics:

**Step 1** – identify 'special friends' (children are allowed to underline the sounds)

**Step 2** – Fred talk the sounds (say each sound separately)

**Step 3** – read the word (blend sounds together)

- Use the speed sounds chart. Point to a sound and ask your child to say the sound.
- Choose 4 sounds a week to display at home that your child is unfamiliar with. Use the sound phrases first to identify the sound and then move onto just saying the correct sound.
- · You can then highlight these sounds when you read with your child.
- Practise a mixture of real and nonsense words for your child to practice. An example of a phonics screening check test has been included.
- Make up nonsense words and ask your child to read. Then ask your child to make up a nonsense word for you to read.
- With all books, encourage your child to 'sound out'/'Fred talk' 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 him or her to follow the story.
- Try to make time to read with your child every day. Grandparents and older brother or sisters can help, too. Encourage your child to blend the sounds all the way through a word.
- Word games like 'I-spy' can also be an enjoyable way of teaching children about sounds and letters. You can also encourage your child to read words from your shopping list or road signs to practise phonics.
- Lots of Fred talk at home!!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself or your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Newby and Mrs Milton

Reading Leaders

# Complex Speed Sounds

# Consonant sounds

f	l	m	n	r	S	V	Z	sh	th	ng
ff	ll	mm	nn	rr	SS	ve	ZZ	ti		nk
ph	le	mb	kn	wr	se		S	ci		
Many					С		se			
					ce					

b	С	d	g	h	j	р	qu	t	W	X	y	ch
bb	k	dd	gg		g	pp		tt	wh			tch
	ck				ge							
	ch				dge							

# Vowel sounds

а	е	i	0	u	ay	ee	igh	ow
	ea				ay a-e	y	igh i-e	о̂-е
					ai	ea	ie	oa
						е	i	0
							y	

00	00	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy	ire	ear	ure
и-е			oor	are	ur	ow	οί			
ue			ore		er					
ew			aw							
			au							

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## Phrases to help remember the sounds

ay: may I play

ee: what can you see

igh: fly high

ow: blow the snow

oo: poo at the zoo

oo: look at a book

ar: start the car

or: shut the door

air: that's not fair

ir: whirl and twirl

ou: shout it out

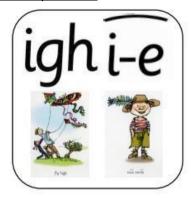
oy: toy for a boy

ea: cup of t <u>ea</u>	
<b>i</b> : sp <u>oi</u> l the boy	
<b>1-e</b> : make a cake	
- <b>e</b> : nice smile	
<b>≻e</b> : phone home	
<b>ı-e</b> : huge brute	
<b>w</b> : y <u>aw</u> n at d <u>aw</u> n	
are: sh <u>are</u> and c <u>are</u>	
<b>ır</b> : p <u>ur</u> se for a n <u>ur</u> se	
e <b>r</b> : a bett <u>er</u> lett <u>er</u>	
<b>w</b> : br <u>ow</u> n c <u>ow</u>	
<b>il</b> : sn <u>ai</u> l in the r <u>ai</u> n	
oa: goat in a boat	
<b>w</b> : ch <u>ew</u> the st <u>ew</u>	
re: <u>fire</u> f <u>ire</u> !	
ear: h <u>ear</u> with your <u>ear</u>	
<b>ire</b> : s <u>ure</u> it's p <u>ure</u> ?	
i <b>on:</b> (celebra <u>ti</u> on)	
ious / cious: (scrumptious / delicio	us
: h <u>e me</u> w <u>e</u> sh <u>e</u> b <u>e</u>	

## Set 2 and 3 sounds and pictures

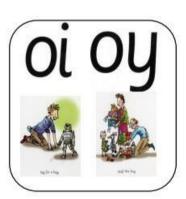












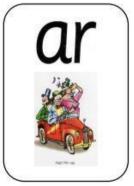










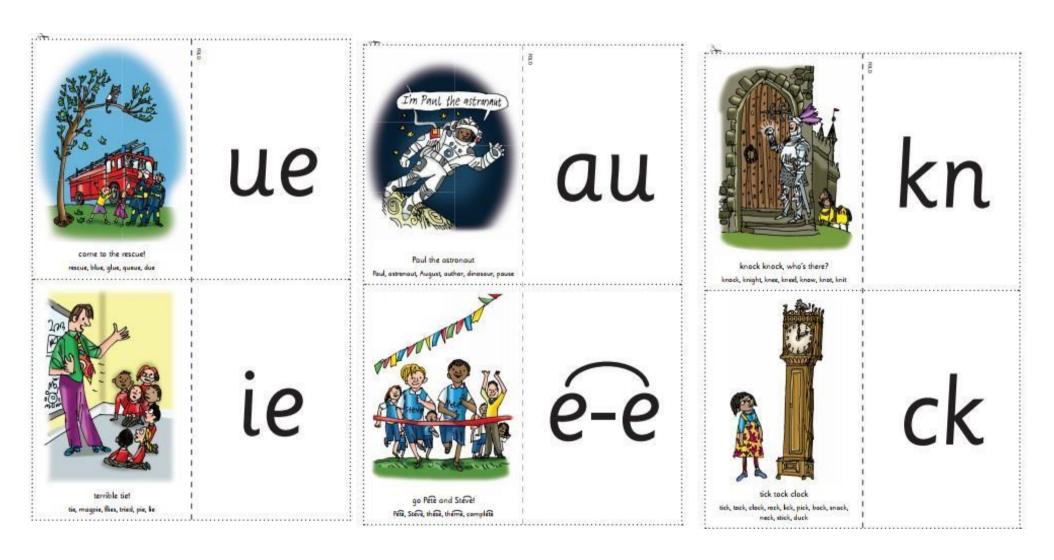








### Additional sounds and their phrases



Ruth Miskin (the founder of Read, Write, Inc.) has a very useful website that includes useful video clips and information about Read, Write, Inc.

You can also purchase RWI resources to use at home with your child. Amazon also sell these.

Examples of phonics screening check assessment. Please note these are the answer sheet for the teacher administering the test. This is not the sheet children will read from.

	Section 1							
Word	Correct	Incorrect	Comment					
dat								
cag								
rin	8							
ept								
jash								
quib								
coid								
quass								
glog								
blard								
disp								
murbs								
chum								
kick	3							
reef								
short	4 8							
blot	41 52							
greet								
dust	0							
parks								

Section 2						
Word	Correct	Incorrect	Comment			
tay						
sloam						
zued	18					
meve						
clend						
braits						
scrug						
splue						
high						
feast						
goal						
shape						
trunk	-					
groups	-6					
straw						
scribe						
model	e.					
person						
chapter	-					
reptiles						

Section 1						
Word	Correct	Incorrect	Comment			
lig						
mep						
gax						
emp						
beff						
shup						
doil						
charb						
frex						
criff						
haps						
barst						
chin						
deck						
horn						
queen						
tram						
press						
self						
keeps						

	Sectio	n 2	
Word	Correct	Incorrect	Comment
jigh	1.0		
woats			
rird			
phope			
glips			
floost			
splam			
stribe	0		
stair			
haunt			
lied	4		
wove			
drank			
treats			
scram			
stroke			
arrow			
forest			
wishing	3		
brighter			