



Westlands Primary School

A member of Swale Academies Trust



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KAM/ELB/SLC/Phonics/Year 1

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Dear Parents and carers,

In the summer term the children in Year 1 will take part in the statutory phonics screening check.

The national phonics screening check was introduced in 2012 to all year 1 pupils. It is a short, statutory assessment to confirm whether individual pupils have learnt phonics decoding to an appropriate standard. It aims to identify children who need extra help so that they can be given support by the school to improve their reading skills.

At Westlands Primary School we already identify children and provide early intervention and support and we will use the outcomes from the statutory assessments to plan any additional support needed as the children transition into Year 2.

The screening check comprises a list of 40 words and non-words, which a child will read one-to-one with a teacher. Half of the words cover phonics skills which are usually covered in Reception and half of the words are based on year 1 phonics skills. Some of the words are real words and some of the words are 'alien' words which the children will use their decoding skills to sound out.

We have been supporting the children over the course of the year in readiness for the check as part of their learning in English. This week we will be sending a few resources home with your child to give you an overview of the phonics the children learn: the sound chart which the children use in school to support and consolidate their phonic skills when writing and some examples of the real words and non-words that they could encounter in the check.

Please be assured that we carry out the check in a calm and relaxed manner so that your child can demonstrate their learning without feeling under any pressure.

Your child's class teacher will be able to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Mirams
Executive Headteacher