



STANBRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Tuesday 20th February 2018

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check parents meeting

Dear Year 1 Parents/Carers,

We would like to invite you to a phonic information session on Wednesday 28th February 2018, 3.20 – 3.45pm. We will be sharing a short 15 minute explanation about the government phonic checking process that will be happening in June. We hope that this will give you an insight into how we teach phonics and how you can support your child in learning phonics at home. **Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.** This letter gives further information about phonics and the screening check.

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 eg 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 has introduced a new phonics screening check at the end of Y1. 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 a list of 40 words that children read one-to-one with a teacher. The list is a combination of both real and 'alien' words which rely purely on using phonics to decode. The 'alien' words are made up and will be shown with a picture of an imaginary creature eg sturg, zom

We will carry out the check in the week commencing 11th **June 2018.**

After the check?

At Stanbridge Primary School, we know and understand that children develop at different rates and we always tailor the learning to maximise progress for each individual. We pride ourselves on our rigorous phonics teaching using Read, Write, Inc. Phonics starting in Reception and continuing through to Lower Key Stage 2.

We do keep you informed about your child's progress at Parents' Evenings and through the end of year individual report. As part of our ongoing assessments, any child who finds phonics challenging will already be receiving support from the school.

Having said that, we are legally obliged to inform you how your child is progressing in phonics and, more specifically, how he or she has done in the government screening check.

Although the check is to take place in a particular week, the children will largely be unaware of it and will just enjoy some one-to-one time with their teacher.

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

Yours sincerely,

Miss F. Bertham
Head Teacher