

A Guide for Parents...

Year One

•••• Phonics Screening Check ••••

What is phonics?

Children begin to learn phonics (sounds) in early years in both nursery and reception classes. 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 words.

For this reason, often the first initial sounds that are taught are /s/, /a/, /t/, /p/, /i/ and /n/. These can immediately be blended for reading to make simple CVC words (consonant, vowel, consonant) e.g. sat, pin. Children then develop segmenting for writing skills, breaking the word into sounds to spell it out.

What is the phonics screening check?

Children in year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check during the same week in June. Children in year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when in year 1 or they have not taken the test before.

Headteachers should decide whether it is appropriate for each of their pupils to take the phonics screening check. 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 teacher. 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 read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo-words (nonsense words).

Pseudo-Words (Nonsense Words)

The pseudo-words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This gives your child context for the pseudo-word, which is independent of 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 all schools must report each child's results to their parents. They will also confirm if the child has met the standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in year 2.



How are the results used?

Results from the check will be used by schools to analyse their own performance and for Ofsted to use in inspections.

"Read as much as possible to and with your child."

How can I help my child at home?

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise your child – get them to have a 'good guess'.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each one, e.g. /c/ in cat, /p/ in pat, /ng/ in sing, /ee/ in been.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to our final half term in Year 1! We hope that you all had a lovely holiday and the children are raring to go for the final 7 weeks. The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check happens during week of June 8th. Please see the attached information for more details. There will also be further information posted on Tapestry.

As always, if you have any questions, please come and see us.

~The Year 1 Team

Reading

Reading is so important, and we really appreciate your support in listening to your child read every day to help them to become confident, fluent and expressive readers. Please remember to read with your child when the books come home. Also, these books MUST be returned on a Monday morning so they can be readily available for other groups/classes.

Little Wandle Letters and Sounds is our phonics scheme; the books we send home are linked with the scheme.

Golden ticket

🎟 Golden Tickets for Independence!

This half term, we're celebrating our "independence!" We'll be awarding Golden Tickets to children who take charge of their own day. In Year 1, independence means mastering the "big things," like:

- Morning Routines: Hanging up coats and clearing their things on the table away without being asked.
- Managing Belongings: Keeping track of jumpers and water bottles.
- Shoelace Success: Fastening their own shoes! Please practice this at home to help your child feel confident and ready.

At the end of the half term, the child with the most tickets in each class will win a special prize! 🏆 Thank you for helping your little ones develop their "I can do it!" skills at home.

Library Day

Library Day is Wednesday for Chestnut and Friday for Maple. Please ensure that your child has their library book in their bag.

PE

PE day is on a Wednesday for Maple and a Thursday for Chestnut. Please can children come to school wearing their PE kit for that day. If your child has long hair, please ensure it is tied back, thank you. The children will not have PE when it is Forest School week.

Forest School

🌲 The children really look forward to Forest School sessions. They will need a waterproof coat and waterproof trousers or puddle suit. If the weather is warm, then long sleeves will be adequate, e.g. jogging bottoms and hoodie. Forest School sessions this half term are during the week of July 6th. Maple will go on Wednesday morning (July 8th) but Chestnut will have their Forest School session the following week on Monday afternoon (July 13th). Please remember to send in a carrier bag so the children can put their forest things in afterwards and take home for washing.

Purple Mash

💻 Did you know your child has their own personal login for Purple Mash? This is a fantastic online platform we use in school for computing and across all our subjects.

- What's Inside? Every term, we set fun activities in the "2Do" section, covering everything from Maths and English to Art and Science.
- Access Anywhere: Your child can log in at home to dive into these tasks. If they don't have internet access at home, don't worry - they'll have plenty of time to explore this during continuous provision at school.
- Free for You: The school provides this subscription, so your child can keep the learning going at no extra cost!

Summer Trip

The summer trip this year will be to Carlisle Castle on Friday, July 10th. The children will be travelling by train and then walking to, and from, the castle. More details to follow.

Dates for the diary

- Tuesdays, 2nd June and 9th June – Sports Coach (please wear PE kits)
- Monday, 8th June – Phonics Screening Check
- Wednesday, 10th June – Mental Health and Well Being Roadshow
- Wednesday, 17th June – Sports Day
- Friday, 19th June – Sing and Sign
- Thursday, 25th and Friday, 26th June – I Just Can't Wait To Be King performance
- Thursday, 2nd July – Transition morning
- Friday, 10th July – Year 1 trip to Carlisle Castle
- Monday, 13th July – Reports out
- Friday, 17th July - Break up for summer

Reminders

- As part of our healthy school policy, please only send plain water in water bottles (not flavoured water)
- Please ensure that all clothing is labelled, including sunhats.
- Earrings must not be worn for school and long hair must be tied up.
- As the weather warms up, please make sure that the children have a sun hat and sun cream put on before school, if necessary.



Year 1 Curriculum Newsletter

This is what we will be learning this half term

English

This half term, we are exploring themes of creativity and identity through two wonderful books: Iggy Peck, Architect and



Julian Is A Mermaid.

- Iggy Peck, Architect: Our budding builders will design towers and dream homes while mastering “comparing” words like *taller* and *tallest*. They’ll also create architectural posters and fact files, ending the unit by writing formal certificates for our “Dream Home Awards.”
- Julian is a Mermaid: We’ll dive into a story of self-expression, where children will write mermaid “instructions” using active verbs and design their own carnival costumes. To finish, they will use their phonics and punctuation skills to write original poetry about movement and being true to themselves.

Maths

We will continue to follow the White Rose Maths Scheme of Learning. Topics we will be looking at are: time (telling the time to the hour and half past hour as well as days of the week and months of the year); measurement (money - both counting coins and recognising coins and notes); place value (within 100, including 1 more and 1 less, ordering numbers and partitioning numbers); and position and direction (describing position as well as giving instructions for moving left, right, etc.).

Science

Our Science topic this half term is Making Connections: Investigating Science Through Stories. The children will be consolidating their knowledge of plants and animals through picture books and practical investigations.

Computing

This half term, our budding tech experts are exploring two exciting units: “Technology Around Us” and “Creating and Following Instructions.” The children will start by identifying technology in our school, homes, and the wider world to understand how it helps us every day. They will then develop “algorithmic thinking” by practicing how to follow and create simple instructions - first through fun, hands-on activities and then on digital devices - to build a strong foundation for future coding.

DT

Our focus this half term is structures. Our young engineers are learning how to build sturdy, stable structures by exploring how wide bases and added weight prevent tipping. Pupils will design and sketch products for a specific user, practicing their technical skills with neat cutting and secure joining methods. To wrap up, they will evaluate their finished creations, reflecting on their design choices and what they like about their work.

Geography

In Geography, our young explorers are setting off on a global journey to compare our local area with the vibrant city of Shanghai, China. Using field walks, aerial photos and atlases, the children will practice identifying human and physical features while mastering map-reading skills and compass points.

Music

This half term our Music topic is called ‘At the Seaside.’ This unit focuses on using graphic symbols and images to create a score. It works on two types of graphic scores – simple picture presentation and a more structured grid score. Pupils are given opportunities to work collaboratively and listen to a variety of music and sounds around this theme.

PSHE

This half term our topic is ‘Changing Me.’ The unit looks at understanding that everyone is unique and special, how we can express how we feel and who to ask for help if they are worried about change.

PE

Our focus this half term will be striking and fielding. This unit looks at mastering the basic movements including throwing and catching. Pupils will participate in team games, developing simple tactics for attacking and defending.

RE

Our enquiry question this half term is ‘What is the best way for a Buddhist to lead a good life?’ The children will explore why it is important to use the right actions and how their right actions could help people suffer less.

