

# A Parent's Guide to the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

## *What do we mean by PHONICS?*

**Phonics** is one of a range of tools that children use to learn to read and write.

In order to read and write, children need to:

- learn their letter sounds
- learn to form their letters
- learn to blend sounds together for reading
- learn to identify the sounds in words for writing
- learn to read and spell the tricky high frequency words



As well as learning the sounds made by individual letters, your child learns how letters combine to make new sounds such as **sh** and **oi**.

## *What is the Phonics Screening Check?*

The Government have introduced a phonics screening check that is **compulsory** for all primary schools with Year 1 children. It will take place during June.

The check will form part of the assessment, made by your child's teacher, of how your child is progressing with the important skills of reading and writing.

Your child will sit with a teacher he/she knows well and be asked to read 40 words aloud.

Some of these words will be familiar to your child and some will be '**nonsense words**'.

All the words will be words that can be read by '**sounding out**'.

The '**nonsense words**' are included as these will not be familiar to any of the children and therefore no one has an unfair advantage. At The Bythams Primary School we call these **alien words** and when we learn letter sounds, we have lots of fun using these to name interesting-looking aliens!

Before the end of this term, you will be informed by the school about how your child has performed in the screening check and how he/she is progressing with phonics.



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If you would like to find out more about phonics or the phonics screening check, **ask your child's teacher** or visit

[www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/pedagogy/phonics](http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/teachingandlearning/pedagogy/phonics)