



St Nicolas and St Mary CE Primary School

Eastern Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex BN43 6PE

Tel: 01273 454470 Email: office@stnm.org.uk

Web: www.stnicolasmary.w-sussex.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr A Lincoln BA Hons.

Executive Headteacher: Mr D Etherton BEd Hons. NPQH



Bishop
Otter
Academy
Trust

Dear Parents and Carers

Phonics Screening Check

We are writing to inform you about the upcoming Phonics Screening check, which will take place during week commencing 10th June. The check is a government test which assesses the reading skills of all children at this age. If your child does not pass the test in Year 1 then they will take the test again in Year 2. As a school we teach phonics via the Read Write Inc scheme and this video explains more about the process:

<https://youtu.be/LbKGLJPp6ww>

Here are some FAQ:

How will the children know which words are 'alien' (nonsense) words?

The made-up 'alien' words are always presented with a picture of an alien, so the children know that they are not real words that they might recognise. They are very familiar with this concept.

How will the phonics screening be administered?

Each child is taken through the screening check by a teacher on a 1:1 basis. This will be in a quiet area and there is not a time limit.

Will we be told about our child's results?

The results of the check will be issued in the end of year reports.

What is the pass mark?

The standard threshold pass mark for this year's phonics screening check will be published on Monday 24th June (after the children have sat the check). Last year the pass mark was 32 out of 40.

What happens if my child doesn't pass the phonics screening check?

Any child that does not reach the standard threshold will sit the 2025 screening check when they are in year 2, with the following year's cohort of year 1s.

When will the phonics screening take place?

The government requires that the check must be taken during the week commencing 10th June. A pupil may only take the check the following week if they were absent during check week. If a pupil doesn't take the check during this period and returns to school after Thursday 20th (Friday 21st is an inset day) they must be recorded as absent.

How can we support our child out of school?

Support your child by sharing their Read Write Inc reading books at home and practise red words, green words and unknown sounds. Read as much as possible to and with your child. When children become more capable readers they develop the skill of word recognition. However, it is important that children continue to practise

good sounding out and blending so they don't fall into the trap of guessing the wrong word. Some children may be given sounds to practise which they are having difficulty learning.

You may also want to use the following web link to practise both nonsense and real words with your child:

<https://monsterphonics.com/phonics-screening-test/>

Which phonics phase will the phonics screening check focus on?

The check includes graphemes from all of the phases taught to the children since they started school. (Phases 2-5) Read Write Inc sets 1-3.

For more information about this please visit the phonics section of our website:

<https://www.stnicolasmary.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Phonics&pid=1340>

Many thanks for your support with practising reading with your child at home. If you have any further questions, please contact their class teacher.

Best wishes

Dr Victoria Bishop
Deputy Headteacher