



Goldenhill Primary Academy



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"Everyone shines at Goldenhill"

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Friday 20th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you about the National Phonics Screening Check that will take place the week beginning the 30th November 2020. As you know, the government provide an annual Phonics Screening Check for Year 1's every year. Ordinarily, the children would have undertook their Phonics Screening Check in June 2020 during their time in Year 1. However, as this was not possible we are required to undertake the assessment during the Autumn term in Year 2. If your child does not reach the required level, they will be re-tested in June 2021 and extra phonics/extra support will be put in place. Parents will be informed of their child's results after the test prior to the end of term.

The Phonics Screening Check informs our continual assessment of the children's phonic knowledge and the results of the check will be shared with parents/carers when everything has been assessed and moderated. In this test children will recognise and identify sounds that individual letters and combinations of letters make, and blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word. This is to ensure that children can use this knowledge to segment and blend new words that they hear or see.

The assessment comprises a list of 40 words that children read one-to-one with myself. The list is a combination of 20 real and 20 'nonsense' words, non-words which rely purely on using phonics to decode. The non-words are words that have been made up and will be shown with a picture of an imaginary creature. Your child will be familiar with this because we already use 'nonsense' words when teaching phonics in school. Non-words are important because children cannot read the non-words by using their memory or vocabulary; they have to use decoding skills and their sound knowledge to accurately sound and blend the letters in the word together. This is a fair way to assess their ability to decode.

This term we have been working very hard in daily phonics sessions to ensure the children 'catch up' the phonics learning they may have missed and to prepare them as best we can. The test will be administered in a non pressure situation; the children are very used to reading words like this and are very familiar with the format.

Suggested websites for information and fun practice:-

- <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> - to point them in the direction of games like 'Buried Treasure', 'Picnic on Pluto', 'Make a Match', 'Dragon's Den' (to practise segmenting and blending real and nonsense words).
- <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/books/free-ebooks/>
- <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/at-school/primary-school-assessment-tests/year-1-phonics-screening-check/>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns or questions about the phonics screening.

Thank you for all of your support during this strange and challenging year!

Regards

Miss Pitt

