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Dear Parents and Carers

In June every Year 1 child will be taking the statutory phonics screening check. The check takes place in a 1 week window and this year will start from 10th June 2019. The check is very similar to tasks the children already complete during phonics lessons. The purpose of the check is to provide evidence of children's decoding and blending skills, not to test their vocabulary.

What does the Phonics Screening Check look like?
The checks consist of 40 words and non-words that your child will be asked to read one-on-one with me. Non-words (or made up words, or nonsense words, or pseudo words or alien words) are a collection of letters that will follow phonics rules your child has been taught, but don't mean anything – your child will need to read these with the correct sounds to show that they understand the phonics rules behind them.

The 40 words and non-words are divided into two sections – one with simple word structures of three or four letters, and one with more complex word structures of five or six letters. The teacher administering the check with your child will give them a few practice words to read first – including some non-words – so they understand more about what they have to do. Each of the non-words is presented with a picture of a monster / alien, as if the word were their name (and so your child doesn't think the word is a mistake because it doesn't make sense!). Children have practised this in class throughout the year and for homework.

Scoring and communicating the results
Your child will be scored against a national standard, and the main result will be whether or not they fall below or within this standard.

If your child's score is below the expected standard, then they will be tested again in Year 2.

Yours sincerely

Miss Lucy Shannon
Class Teacher