

16 May 2022

Dear Parents

### Phonics Screening

Every June Year 1 children have their phonics skills checked in the Phonics Screening Check. This happens in all schools and will take place in a one-to-one setting with their teacher. This activity will be seen as a normal part of every day school life and is nothing for the children to be worried about.

Whilst children learn phonics to help them with both word reading and spelling, the Phonics Screening Check only tests their skills at word reading. This is sometimes called decoding.

During the Phonics Screening Check, children are asked to read (decode) 40 words. Half of these words are real words, but the rest are pseudo-words (nonsense words). Pseudo-words are included to check that children will be able to read any words correctly even if they have not come across them before. Each pseudo-word is clearly identified with an image of an alien. Most teachers and children, therefore, refer to pseudo-words as alien or monster words.

We will send home some extra material with a few children for them to practise at home, but we have also put some practice materials on the website in the Year 1 area: <https://wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk/year-1/>

If you have any questions, please contact us via the school office on [admin@wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@wardenhill.gloucs.sch.uk)

Kind regards

Year 1 Team

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