



Oakham Primary School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of the Year 1 curriculum and statutory testing, children at Oakham and throughout the country will be participating in the phonics screening check during the week commencing 8th June 2026.

What is the phonics screening check?

The test contains 40 words. Each child will sit one-to-one and read each word aloud to a teacher. The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child, although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace. The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 pseudo words (nonsense words). The focus of the assessment is not on the recognition of the real or pseudo words but on children's ability to read each word using their phonics skills of blending known sounds.

How will I be notified of my child's performance?

The results of the assessment will be shared at a similar time to the children's end-of-year reports. All children continue to participate in phonics lessons in Year 2, those who do not reach the screening pass threshold (previously 32 out of 40) will be given the opportunity to re-sit the screening check in Year 2.

How can I help my child at home?

During the next week, all children will be sent home with a screening preparation pack. This will contain resources suited to preparing them for the assessment, including a mock assessment paper so both you and your child can see and understand the format of the screening assessment. Working through this pack, along with continuing to read their school reading books will prepare your child for this assessment.

At Oakham we strongly believe in making this assessment child-friendly and therefore the screening will be delivered by a member of staff who is known to your child and will be presented as a game.

If you have any questions or concerns about this, do not hesitate to speak to a member of Year 1 staff.

Yours sincerely

Year 1 Team

