

Dear Parents and Carers,

Throughout the week beginning Monday 15th June the Year 1 children will complete a Phonics Screening Check with me. Please find below some information about the Check which I hope you will find useful.

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

The National Phonics Screening Check is a statutory assessment that was introduced in 2012 to all Year 1 pupils and is a quick and easy check of your Childs phonics knowledge.

Who is it for?

All year 1 pupils will take the Phonics Screening Check in 2015 during the week beginning 15th June.

What is in the Phonics Screening Check?

It comprises of a list of 40 words and nonsense words. It will assess phonics skills and knowledge learnt through Reception and Year 1. Your child will read one-one with their teacher. Your child will read up to 4 words per page and they will probably do the check in 10-15 minutes. They will be asked to 'sound out' a word and blend the sounds together. The check is very similar to tasks the children already complete during phonics lessons.

What are Nonsense or Pseudo words and why are they included?

These are words that are phonetically decodable but not actual words with an associated meaning e.g. brip, snorb. These words are included in the Check specifically to assess whether you child can decode a word using phonic skills and not their memory. The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. The children will be asked what the aliens name is by reading the word. This will make the Check a bit more fun and provides the children with a context for the nonsense word. Crucially it does not provide any clues, so your child has to be able to decode it. Children generally find nonsense amusing so they will probably enjoy reading these words.

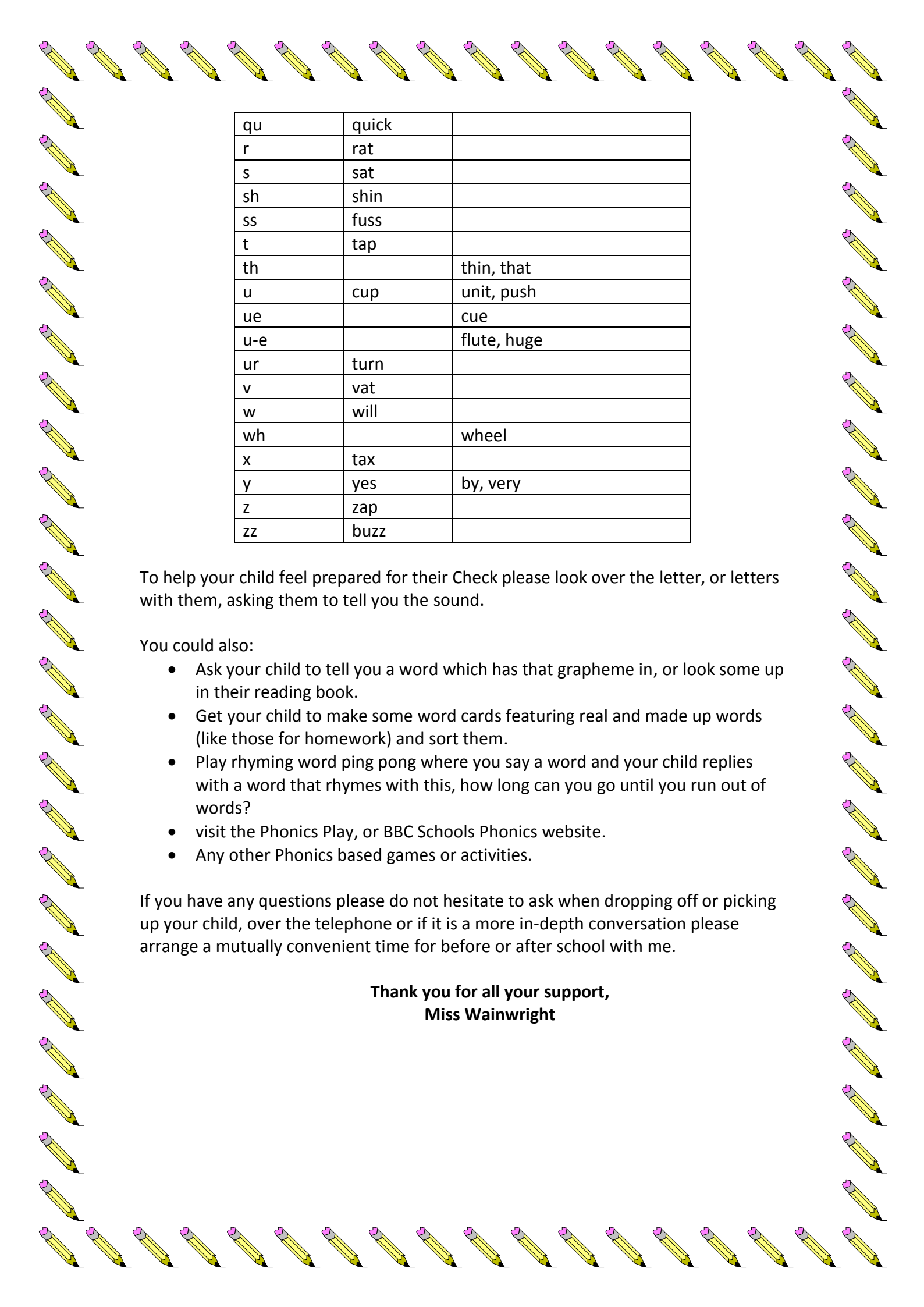
How will the results from the screening be used?

You will be informed of your Childs progress in phonics and how he or she has done in the Screening Check, from an additional sheet included in the Reports. All of the children are individuals and develop at different stages. The Screening Check ensures that teachers understand which children need support with decoding.

Below is a list with examples of the letter-sound correspondences which could appear in each section of the Screening Check..

Grapheme	Section 1	Section 2*
a	hat	bacon, fast**
a-e		came
ai		bait

air		fair
ar	farm	
au		launch
aw		raw
ay		day
b	bat	
c	cat	cell
ch	chin	school
ck	back	
d	dog	
e	hen	she
ea		sea, head
ee	reed	
e-e		these
er	fern	farmer
ew		strewn
f	fit	
ff	stuff	
g	gate	gem
h	hat	
i	tin	mind
i-e		time
ie		pie,
igh	sigh	
ir		girl
j	jam	
k	kick	
l	lap	
ll	fill	
m	mat	
n	net	
ng	sing	
Grapheme	Section 1	Section 2*
o	hot	cold
oa		boat
oe		goes
o-e		home
oi	coin	
oo		tool
or	born	
ou		out
ow		down, low
oy		boy
p	pet	
ph		photo



qu	quick	
r	rat	
s	sat	
sh	shin	
ss	fuss	
t	tap	
th		thin, that
u	cup	unit, push
ue		cue
u-e		flute, huge
ur	turn	
v	vat	
w	will	
wh		wheel
x	tax	
y	yes	by, very
z	zap	
zz	buzz	

To help your child feel prepared for their Check please look over the letter, or letters with them, asking them to tell you the sound.

You could also:

- Ask your child to tell you a word which has that grapheme in, or look some up in their reading book.
- Get your child to make some word cards featuring real and made up words (like those for homework) and sort them.
- Play rhyming word ping pong where you say a word and your child replies with a word that rhymes with this, how long can you go until you run out of words?
- visit the Phonics Play, or BBC Schools Phonics website.
- Any other Phonics based games or activities.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask when dropping off or picking up your child, over the telephone or if it is a more in-depth conversation please arrange a mutually convenient time for before or after school with me.

**Thank you for all your support,
Miss Wainwright**