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4th April 2025

Phonics Screening Check Information

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the week commencing Monday 9th June 2025, all Year One children will take the government Phonics Screening check. Any Year Two child who did not reach the expected standard in Year 1 will also retake the check. The phonics screening check is a quick and easy check of your child's phonics knowledge. It helps each school confirm whether your child has made the expected progress.

Please see attached parent/carers information leaflet and invitation to parent/carers meeting for more detail.

How does the check work?

Your child will sit with Mrs Steer or Mrs Copping, and be asked to read 40 words aloud. Your child may have read some of the words before, while others will be completely new. The check is expected to take just a few minutes to complete and there is no time limit. If your child is struggling, I will stop the check. The screen will include no more than 40 'words'. It will be divided into two sections:

1. The first section will include the easier letter sounds – single letter sounds such as 's' or 'a'
2. The second section will contain more difficult sounds – letter sounds made up of more than one letter such as 'ch', 'ar', 'ou', 'er', 'ay' or 'air' etc... The check will contain a mix of real words and made up or 'alien words'. Your child will be told before the check that there will be words that he or she will not have seen before. Children have to read the 'tricky alien words' by using their memory or vocabulary, they cannot be 'sounded out' and blended.

How can you help your child prepare for the test?

Reading every day, little and often is key. It is really important that when you support your child with their reading that you and your child pronounce the sounds accurately to ensure words are read and pronounced carefully. Please click on the links below to hear children pronounce sounds.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc> At Newton Tony, we follow the 'Little Wandle' scheme for teaching phonics. The children are very familiar with it and their home reading books are linked to the texts they are reading in school.

Online games

Follow this link for some brilliant, free games for your child to play at home:

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources>

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,
Miss Steer and Mrs Copping
Year 1 and 2 Class Teachers

