PHONICS SCREENING

This takes place in June when your child is in Year 1.

Your child will sit with their teacher 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 normally takes a few minutes and there is no time limit. If your child is struggling, the teacher will stop the check.

The phonics assessment will be divided into two sections.

Section 1: 12 nonsense words and 8 real words

- o The first section contains a mix of simpler real and nonsense words, such as CVC, VCC, CCVC and CVCC words (where C is a consonant and V is a vowel).
- o This section uses single letter sounds and easy digraphs (two letter sounds). For example: *a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, j, k, l, m, n, o, p, q(u), r, s, t, u, v, w, x, y, z, ch, ck, ff, ll, ng, sh, ss, th, zz, ar, ee, oi, oo* and *or*.

Section 2: 8 nonsense words and 12 real words

- o The second section also contains real and nonsense words, but moves onto trickier words. The words in this section also tend to be longer words, of two or more syllables (for example CCVCC, CCCVC, CCCVCC and two syllable words).
- o For example, they may introduce less common consonant sounds including *ph* and *wh,* or they may have consonant clusters to begin with, such as *spr(ing), str(eet), scr(ap)*.
- o They also have trickier vowel sounds and split vowel sounds like *a-e, ai, au, aw, ay, ea, e-e, er, ew, i-e, ie, ir, oa, o-e, ou, ow, oy, ue, u-e, ur, air* and *igh*.

The check contains a mixture of real words

shin

pine

rusty

trains

and 'non words' (made up or nonsense words)

fape

hild

chom

Children cannot read the non-words by using their memory or vocabulary; they have to use their decoding skills. This is considered a fair way to assess their ability to decode.