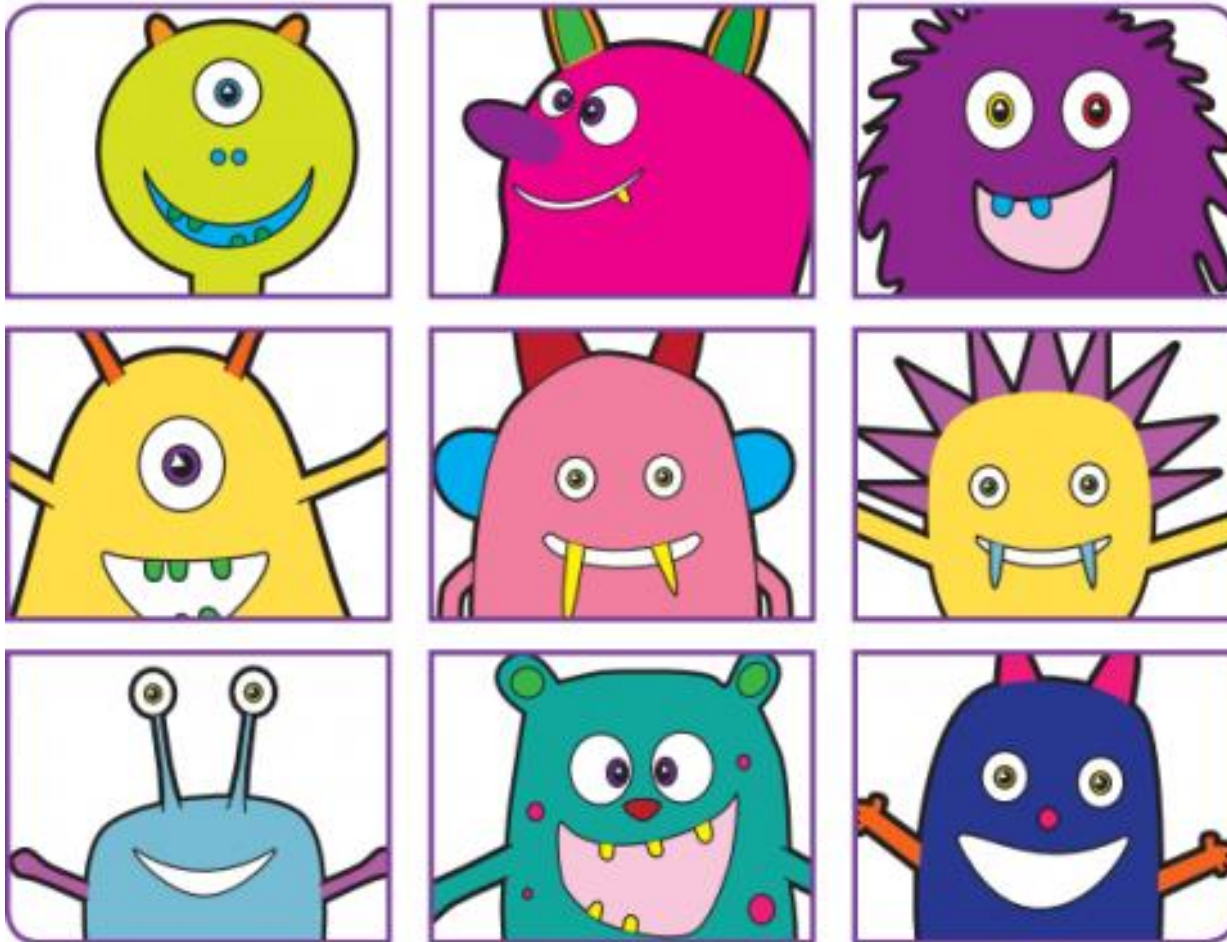# Y1 Phonics Screening Check

Harlington Lower School

Y1 Phonics Screening Check

Year 1 children

- Your child will be participating in the phonics screening check in June.

- The phonics screening check is a check of your child's phonics knowledge. It helps us to confirm whether your child is making the progress expected in the national curriculum.

- In 2024, the check will take place during the week commencing Monday 10th June.

What if my child doesn't reach the standard in Year 1?

▶ If a pupil does not meet the expected standard at the end of year 1, a programme of support should be put in place and their teacher will consider a re-take in year 2.

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

▶ The phonics screening check contains 40 words divided into two sections of 20 words.

▶ Both sections contain a mixture of real words and pseudo-words.

▶ Pseudo-words are words that are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning. Pseudo-words are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using their phonics skills.

▶ All pseudo-words in the check are accompanied by a picture of an imaginary creature. Children are taught that when a word has a creature next to it, it is a pseudo-word. This is to ensure that they are not trying to match the pseudo-word to a word in their vocabulary.

What is the Phonics Screening Check?

Will I receive feedback on my child's check?

- Yes, we will share your child's score with you in the last half term of Year 1, via their school report.

- If your child has found the check difficult, we will tell you what support we have put in place to help them improve.

- Children who have not met the standard in year 1 will re-take the check in year 2. The results of any re-take will also be shared with you.

How to help your child prepare for the Phonics Screening Check

- Phonics works best when children are given plenty of encouragement and learn to enjoy reading and books. Parents play a very important part in helping with this.

- You can highlight sounds when you read with your child. Teaching how sounds match with letters is likely to start with individual letters such as 's', 'a' and 't' and then will move on to two-letter sounds such as 'ee', 'ch' and 'ck'.

- With all books, encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend the sounds together from left to right rather than looking at the pictures to guess. Once your child has read an unfamiliar word you can talk about what it means and help them to follow the story.

- Your child's teacher will also be able to suggest books with the right level of phonics for your child. These books are often called 'decodable readers' because the story is written with words made up of the letters your child has learnt. Your child will be able to work out new words from their letters and sounds, rather than just guessing.

How to help your child prepare for the Phonics Screening Check

- Parents play an enormous part in fostering a love of books and an enjoyment of reading in their children.

- Play lots of listening games at home with your child.

- Read with your child as often as possible. Read to them and get them to read to you.

- Encourage them with plenty of praise and try to make your reading time enjoyable.

- Play lots of word games like 'I Spy' and 'Hangman'.

- Help your child with their reading by identifying the different sounds in words. For example, in 'cat', say 'c-a-t', then blend these sounds together to say the word 'cat'.

- Discuss the meanings of the words that your child is reading.

- Always remember you can talk to your child's teacher. They will be able to inform you of where your child might need extra support and what you can do to help them.

How to help your child prepare for the Phonics Screening Check

- We have prepared some packs for you to take home to support you in supporting your child. These include a summary of information and some word cards. They also include a Read Write Inc sound chart.

Any questions?