



**Birches First School**

*Believe, Grow, Succeed... to be the best 'me' I can be*

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## **Phonics Screening Update Year 2**

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware, your child would usually have taken the National Phonics Screening Check during Year 1 in June. Due to the school closure (because of the Covid-19 pandemic), the Government have announced that the check will be, instead, administered during the second half of the Autumn Term in Year 2.

The check is designed to give teachers and parents an indication of how your child is progressing in phonics. It will help to identify whether your child has any significant gaps in this vital early reading skill and confirm whether individual children have learnt sufficient phonic decoding/ blending skills to an appropriate standard. Any children who do not achieve the required national standard, will be required to retake the check at the end of Year 2.

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read. Children can then use this knowledge to segment and blend new words that they hear or see.

They are taught how to:

- Recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes
- Identify the sounds that different combination of letters make e.g. sh and oo
- Blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Your child will sit one-to-one and read each word aloud to a teacher which will take approximately 10 minutes. The check consists of 40 words which include 'real' and 'nonsense' words. Nonsense (non) words include a collection of letters that will follow the phonics rules your child has been taught, but don't mean anything – your child will need to read these with the correct sounds to show that they understand the phonics rules behind them. Children will be shown these words with a picture of an alien.

<b><u>Example of real words</u></b>	<b><u>Example of non-words</u></b>
meet	tox
grit	blan
ships	snemp
call	stoft
surprise	thene
finger	jound
brains	clinp
slide	strupe

We have been working very hard in phonics every day and will continue to do all that we can to prepare your child for the check which we will start administering in December. When the check is administered, we aim to ensure that the children are unaware that they are completing the test.

### **How can you help?**

- Read the books set on Big Cat Phonics as these books have been especially chosen to apply learning from our Little Wandle Phonics sessions. Reading with your child regularly will help your child prepare for the phonics screening check. Help your child to segment and blend their sounds to help them read unfamiliar words
- Encourage your child to 'sound out' when reading or writing, helping your child spot a:
  - Digraph – 2 letters making one sound e.g. **cow**
  - Trigraph – 3 letter making one sound e.g. **night**
  - Split digraph – 2 vowels with a consonant in between (previously known as 'magic e') e.g. **spine**
  - Children can draw the sound buttons/ bars underneath the words to help them.
- Children can practise their phonics by playing games online at [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)
- A range of resources will be made available on the Year 2 Home Learning tab of the school website. Phoneme mats can also be found here too to support your child's reading and writing at home.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

**Miss S. Hulme and Mrs K. Kandola**  
**Year 2 Class Teachers**