



# Phonics Screening



Lyminster Primary School  
March 2023 - June 2023

Mrs Galvin

# WHAT IS THE PHONICS SCREENING?

The phonics screening check is a short, simple test taken by all Year 1 and some Year 2 children in England each June, which is to assess their reading ability, using phonics.



# What is phonics?

- Children begin to learn phonics (sounds) in Early Years Reception, or even Nursery.
- Once children begin learning individual letter sounds, these sounds are used orally to identify and read simple words, such as CVC words (cat/sat/mat).
- They will then begin to learn words through patterns, such as rhyming patterns, as they help your child remember words.
- As your child reads these words they will be able to spell them too. Please remember every child is different and will learn at their own pace.

# READ WRITE INC.

Lyminster Primary School follows a daily phonics scheme called Read Write Inc. (RWI).

Children receive 20-30 minutes phonics teaching every day in Reception and in Year 1. Children in Year 2, who did not achieve the threshold in Year 1, also continue to receive daily teaching.

In these sessions, new sounds are introduced and previous sounds are practised and applied.

# SPEED SOUNDS

In Read Write Inc phonics, the individual sounds are called 'speed sounds' – because we want your child to recognise and read them quickly and effortlessly.

# WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE SCREENING?

- The test contains 40 words. Each child will sit one-to-one and read each word aloud to a teacher.
- The test will take approximately 10 minutes per child, although all children are different and will complete the check at their own pace.
- The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 alien words (nonsense words).

# REPORTING TO PARENTS

- By the end of the summer term, all schools must report each child's results to their parents.
- They will also confirm if the child has met the standard threshold.
- Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in Year 2.

# HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD AT HOME?

- Play lots of sound and listening games with your child, using the materials (words) sent home.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child, ideally at least once per day!
- Encourage and praise – get them to have a ‘good guess’.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to spot ‘special friends’ and then saying each sound in the word from left to right.

# HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD AT HOME?

- Help your child to blend the sounds by pointing to each one as they say it OR holding up your fingers/child fingers and pressing each finger as they say it...research from RWI states this helps them to remember the word.
- Encourage your child to draw a sound button/dash under each sound before starting to read it (. \_)
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.
- When reading a story discuss words on the page they might not know...this will help your child to place the word into the correct context and give them a clue of what the word might be! (If the word frock is there...'Do you know what a frock is? We used to say frock instead of a dress! Isn't that strange!')

