

LADYBROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL
INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS
YEAR 1
PHONICS SCREENING CHECK

What is the phonics screening check?

It is new, short, statutory assessment to confirm whether individual pupils have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard.

It will identify the children who need extra help so they are given support by their school to improve their reading skills. At Ladybrook we already identify children as such, however we must comply with the statutory requirement.

Who is it for?

Year 1 pupils will take the phonics screening check in 2012 between 18 and 22 June.

How is the check structured?

It comprises a list of 40 words and non-words, which a child will read one-to-one with a teacher. Half the words cover phonic skills which tend to be covered in Reception, and half the words are based on Year 1 phonics skills.

Isn't it stressful to test such young children?

The assessment will be age-appropriate, with children sitting with a teacher who they know and reading one-to-one. It should be an enjoyable activity for children which takes no more than a few minutes.

Does a teacher have to carry out the screening check?

Yes, we expect the class teacher to carry out the check with most pupils, although schools may involve other teachers.

Why have you included non-words in the screening check?

Non-words are an established assessment method in many schools, and are included in many phonics programmes. They are included because they will be new to all pupils, so there won't be a bias to those with a good vocabulary knowledge or visual memory of words. Pupils who can read non-words should have the skills to decode almost any unfamiliar word.

How long does the check take?

Every child is different but in most cases the check should take less than 10 minutes per child.

How will the results from the phonics screening check be used?

Schools' results will not be published, however schools will have to inform parents towards the end of the summer term in Year 1 of their child's results. At Ladybrook they will be part of the end of year reporting.

What happens if a child struggles with the screening check?

The screening check will identify children who have phonic decoding skills below the level expected for the end of Year 1 and who therefore need extra help. Schools will be expected to provide extra help and children will then be able to re-take the assessment in Year 2.

At Ladybrook parents will continue to be kept well informed of their child's progress in all aspects of reading including phonic development.

How can I help my child?

At Ladybrook we often check phonic development within our approach to the assessment of reading. This screening will form **part** of our overall assessment procedure. However, there are a number of things that parents can do to support early reading skill development.

- Let your child see you enjoying reading yourself. They are influenced by you and what you value!
- Immerse your child in a love of reading: share books and magazines with your child, take them to the library to choose books, read to them regularly, point out texts around you eg in the street etc.
- Make time for your child to read their school books to you regularly—encouraging them by pointing to the words. Ask them about the story they are reading.
- Help your child to practise reading key words (snail sheets) and sounds when these are sent home.
- Communicate with your child's teacher through the Home/School reading diary. We are here to help your child to their very best.