





East Hoathly CE Primary
School and Nursery
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East Sussex
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Executive Headteacher: Mr James Procter

Head of School: Mrs Alice Briley

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Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers of Squirrels class,

## Re: Year 1 Phonics Screening Check 2024

In term 6, the children in Year 1 and some in Year 2 will take part in a phonics screening check, this assesses the children's phonetic knowledge. You might start to hear the children talking about 'alien words'. These are not real words (pseudo words) but they are made up of the sounds they have been taught in Phonics. The children will know they are alien words because they will have a picture of an alien next to the word. These words form part of their phonics screening which will take place in term 6.

Alien words are an efficient way to check if a pupil knows:

- a. the sounds that the letters make
- b. how to blend those sounds into words

The children already read these words as part of their phonics sessions and enjoy playing games with the words.

We will be holding a parent session for parents to find out more about the phonics screening on Thursday 16th May at 2.45pm in the library. Please come in through the main office.

Attached to this letter are some suggestions of activities to support your child/children with their Phonics knowledge. Please utilise the suggested links and games to help them embed these phonic sounds in both real and 'alien words'.

We will tell you about your child's progress in phonics and how he or she has done in the screening check as part of the end of year report. If your child has found the check difficult, we will also tell you what support we have put in place to help him or her improve. All children are individuals and develop at different rates. The screening check ensures that teachers understand which children need extra help with phonic decoding.

Kind regards,

Mrs Briley Head of School

Mrs Tucker Year 1 / 2 Teacher









How can I help my child at home?

• Play lots of sound and listening games with your child.

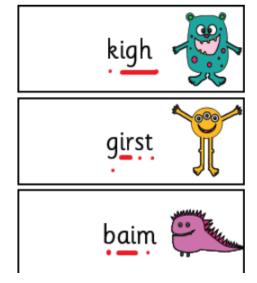
## Phonics website:

https://www.phonicsbloom.com/uk/game/list/phonics-games-phase-5

https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources

https://ictgames.com/phonicsPop/index.html

• Read as much as possible to and with your child.



Ask your child to draw 'sound buttons' underneath each sound, to show they can correctly identify each one.

Say all the sounds individually then put the word together.

- 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 say each sound in the word from left to right.
- $\bullet$  Blend the sounds by pointing to each letter, e.g. /c/ in cat, or the letter group, e.g. /ng/ in sing. Next move your finger under the whole word as you say it.

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