



# The Winchcombe School

Maple Crescent, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 1LN

Tel: 01635 232780

Email: [office@winchcombe.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@winchcombe.w-berks.sch.uk)

Website: [www.winchcombe.w-berks.sch.uk](http://www.winchcombe.w-berks.sch.uk)

## Improving As One

5<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear parents/carers,

As you may already be aware, when your child was in Year 1 they should have taken the statutory Year One Phonics Screening Check in the Summer term. However, this did not take place which means they will be taking the same check at the end of this Autumn term. This will take place during the week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> December. It will be administered by their class teacher and will consist of 40 (in total) words and non-words (we call them 'alien words' with the children, but the literature also refers to them as 'pseudo-words'). Your child will be asked to read them **one-on-one** with their teacher.

The alien words will be a collection of letters that will follow phonics rules your child has been taught, but don't have a meaning, for example. \*bim\*. Your child will need to read these aloud, blending the correct sounds (using decoding skills and not relying on their vocabulary) to show that they understand the phonics rules. **They will be told which words are the made up 'alien' words.**

You can help your child prepare for their Phonics Check very simply:

- Carry on sharing *favourite* books, not just stories or school reading books.
- Play good old 'I Spy' and other word games; laugh at strange sounding words and play around with environmental text - shopping lists, computer game instructions, menus, ticket details, shop signs and so on.
- Talk to them about any new words' meanings and reassure them about the English language's peculiarities!
- There are some great websites, for example Phonics Play with games such as Buried Treasure and Dragon's Den.  
<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources>.
- A phonics sound mat has been provided as a resource to support your child's learning. As well as split digraph resources as they tend to find these tricky.

After the Phonics Screening Check, you will be informed as to whether your child has passed. If they did not pass, we will continue to support their needs and they will retake it in the Summer term.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Year 2 Teachers.



