

Beaconhill Community Primary School
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Headteacher: Mr Joel Routledge B.Ed NPQH



Thursday 9th March

Dear parents/carers,

The Year One staff team have been working very hard this year on **phonics**. Every day, the children receive phonics lessons to support **early reading** and **spelling**.

Year One children across the country take part in a phonics assessment in June every year. This year, the '*Phonics Screening Check*' takes place the **week beginning 12th June**. Each child in Year One will undertake a short phonics check which usually takes about 10 minutes. During the check, children are asked to read 40 words that are **fully decodable**. Decodable means each word can be '*sounded out*', using the phonics skills your child has been taught.

Your child will undertake the check with a known adult from the **Year One staff team**. They have already completed several 'mock' checks as part of everyday teaching that takes place in class. Please be assured that your child is not put in a '*test*' situation. The phonics check is **informal** and, at the end, stickers and **Dojo points** are given!

The phonics check supports **ongoing teacher assessments** carried out throughout the year to confirm whether your child is working at an **age appropriate level** in their word reading. Teachers may provide **additional work** for your child over the next few weeks to complete at home in order to further support their phonics and word reading. The biggest single thing you can do to help your child is to **read with them as much as possible**. Five to ten minutes of reading every day is shown to make a significant difference to **phonic awareness** and **reading comprehension**.

If you have any questions about the phonics check, please do not hesitate to speak to **Mr Shepherd** or **Mrs Carrick**. Alternatively you can email Mrs Carrick; phonics@beaconhill.northumberland.sch.uk.

Many thanks,

Mr Routledge

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'JRoutledge'.