



King's Court First School



Phonic screening parent workshop

What is phonics?

- Phonics is an effective way of teaching children to read. By ensuring high quality phonics teaching, we want to improve literacy levels and give all children a solid base to build on as they progress through school.
- Through phonics children are taught how to:
 - ✓ recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes
 - ✓ identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make - such as 'sh' or 'oo'
 - ✓ blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word
- Children can then use this knowledge to 'decode' new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read.

What is the phonics screening check?

- The phonics screening check contains 40 words divided into two sections of 20 words. Both sections contain a mixture of real words and pseudo-words.
- Alien-words are words that are phonically decodable but are not actual words with an associated meaning.
- Alien -words are included in the check specifically to assess whether your child can decode a word using their phonics skills.
- All alien -words in the check are accompanied by a picture of an imaginary creature. Children are taught that when a word has a creature next to it, it is a alien-word. This is to ensure that they are not trying to match the pseudo-word to a word in their vocabulary.
- The check is designed to give teachers information on how your child is progressing in phonics. It will help to identify whether your child needs additional support at this stage so that they do not fall behind in this vital early reading skill.

Will I find out how my child has done?

- Yes, we will share your child's score with you in their final report

If your child has found the check difficult, we will tell you what support we have put in place to support them and how you can continue to support at home

Children who have not met the standard in year 1 will re-take the check in year 2. The results of any re-take will also be shared with you.

How can I support at home?

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/national-curriculum-assessments-practice-materials>
- Spotting special friends in library books, on signs, in the supermarkets on packaging.
- Play games such as the ones we have today - sorting, pairs, snap
- Reading school reading books
- Showing your child the weekly video