

## **There is a statutory national screening check in Y1 to ascertain if your child's knowledge of phonics is of the expected standard.**

*The government considers that it helps us confirm whether your child has made the expected progress or not.*

***In 2019, the check will take place during the week commencing Monday 10 June.***

### **How does the check work?**

- Your child will sit with a teacher he or she knows and be asked to read 40 words aloud.
- Your child may have read some of the words before, while others will be completely new.
- The check normally takes just a few minutes to complete and there is no time limit. If your child is struggling, the teacher will stop the check. The check is carefully designed not to be stressful for your child.

### **What are 'non-words'?**

The check will contain a mix of 20 real words and 20 'non-words' (or 'nonsense words'). Before the check, your child will be told that there will be some non-words that he or she will not have seen before. The children will be familiar with this because we already use 'non-words' when teaching phonics. Non-words are included because words such as 'vap' or 'jound' are new to all children. Children cannot read the non-words by using their memory or vocabulary; they have to use their decoding skills. The government considers this to be a fair way to assess children's ability to decode.

### **After the check**

We will tell you about your child's progress in phonics and how he or she has done in the screening check in the last half-term of Year 1. All children are individuals and develop at different rates. 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. You might also like to ask how you can support your child to take the next step in reading.