

23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents

You may recall that we held a parents' workshop before lockdown to explain about the phonics screening check that was due to take place in June of this year. The year 1 phonics screening check is not a formal test, but a way for teachers to ensure that children are making sufficient progress with their phonics skills to read words. It enables us to check that individual pupils are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and learning. We also talked to you about how you could help your child at home so that they were fully prepared for the test.

Because of the school closures earlier this year, the phonics screening check did not take place in schools. We have recently been informed however that the phonics screening check will be administered to year 2 pupils in the 2020 autumn term.

Year 2 pupils who meet the expected standard in phonics in the autumn term will not be required to complete any further statutory assessments in phonics. Year 2 pupils who do not meet the expected standard in the autumn check will be expected to take the statutory check in June 2021, alongside Y1 pupils. The children's results will be reported to parents, and will include whether your child has met the expected standard to ensure that you are aware of your child's progress in developing phonics decoding skills.

We are working hard in school to prepare the children for this screening check and we are delighted to offer you the opportunity to subscribe to 'Phonics Play' to support you in helping your child at home with their phonics. 'Phonics Play' is a website that we use in school. It offers interactive phonics games to help children learn about the relationship between letters and sounds and develops the skills needed to read and spell.

At the moment, access to the site is FREE. We know that this is a valuable resource and one that will support parents and their children with their ongoing learning of phonics. We have taken the decision that some of our schools' allocation of the government's 'catch-up funding' will pay for Blakehill parent subscription once Phonics Play begin to charge again.

You will need to visit [phonicsplay.co.uk](http://phonicsplay.co.uk) the username is *march20* and the password is *home*. Please feel free to use any of the games or resources on the site. In class we have revised phases 2, 3, and 4 and we are now focussing on phase 5. There is information for parents that will help you navigate around the website. We hope that you enjoy using this resource with your child. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Mrs C Scott  
EYFS/KS 1 Leader