



26 May 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

As your child will be taking the Year 1 Phonic Screening Assessment in June this year, we are enclosing materials from last year's assessment for your information.

We are hoping that you can utilise these materials to help your child to identify known phonemes (one letter that makes a sound, e.g. **s**, **f**, **a**, **I**, **p**), digraphs (two letters that make one sound, e.g. **sh**, **aa**, **ee**, **au**) and trigraphs (three letters that make one sound, e.g. **igh**, **air**, **ear**), within the words which they are required to read.

Before you start the activity, it might be useful to use the idea of your child being a detective, spotting sounds within the words. How many can they spot? Can they identify these sounds in their own class reading books.

Encourage your child to sound out each part of each word (i.e. segment). Encourage them to work logically from left to right across each word, with their 'Reading Finger' at the ready then 'squeeze the sounds together' (i.e. blend) to read the whole word. Please give plenty of praise when they get it right!

Some phonics in the Phonic Screening Assessment are 'nonsense words', we call them '**alien words**'. These words provide the purest assessment of phonic decoding because they will be new to all children and context or familiarity clues cannot be utilised. Please reinforce the idea with your child that these are not real words and **they should not try and make them into real words when they read them** e.g. reading 'strom' as 'storm' because 'storm' is a real word.

Each '**alien word**' does have a cartoon alien next to the word, which is a helpful clue that the word should sound odd when it is sounded out.

The phase 2, 3 and 5 sound mats have also been included in this pack so that you can practise all of the sounds and you can go over any sounds that your child may find tricky or struggle to remember.

Each year a new Phonic Screening Assessment is provided to be carried out for assessment in June.

P.T.O

Encouraging your child to use the reading strategies practised at school beforehand is useful and builds on good reading behaviours.

You may rest assured that the introduction of this Phonic Assessment in no way underestimates the importance of teaching wider reading skills. At Widecombe we also foster a love of reading amongst our children and teach to enable our children to read for meaning and pleasure, as well as developing skills in decoding. It is important that you continue to hear your child read in the normal way (i.e. talking about pictures, meaning of words, clues in sentences).

We hope that you will find this activity fun and informative. It would be of benefit if you could revisit this activity regularly until the assessments in June.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further questions.

Enjoy the half term break!

Anna Perry & Jodi Dawson