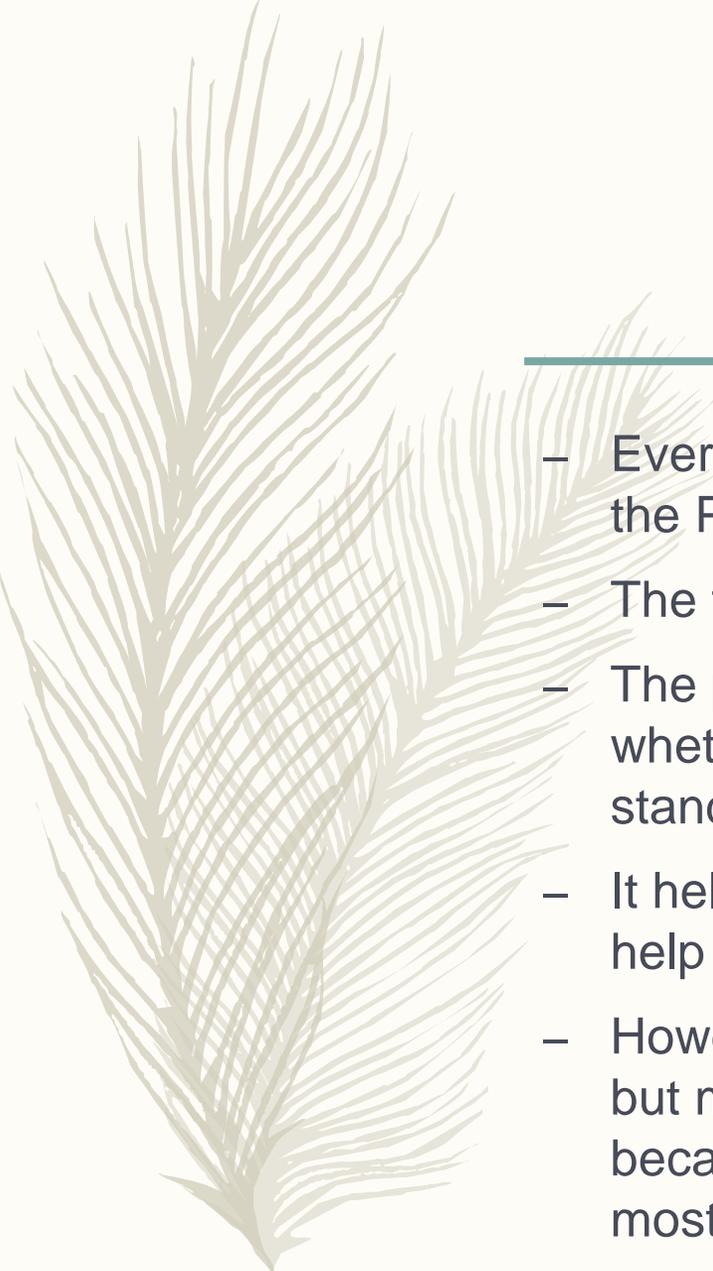


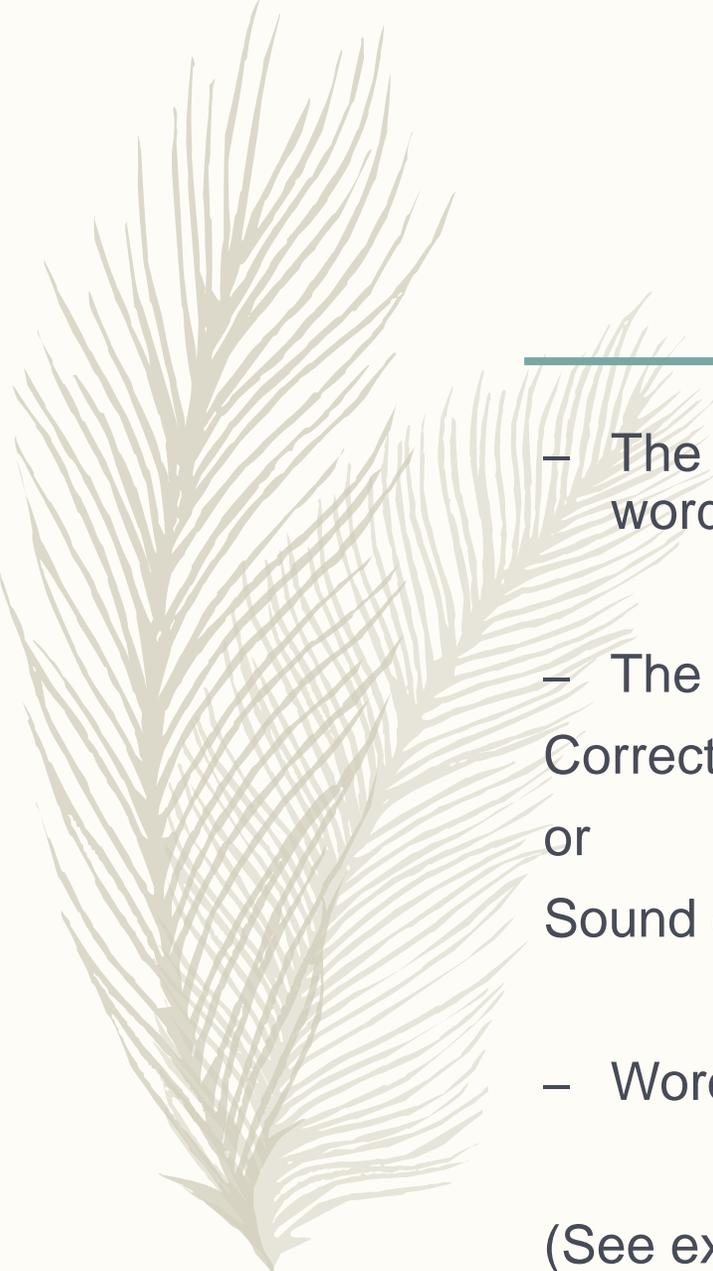


Phonics Check: expectations and next steps.

St-Lukes C of E Primary School

Jan 2017

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- Every academic year, usually in June, year 1 children are required to take the Phonics Screening Check.
 - The threshold has to this point been 32/40.
 - The **phonics screening check** is a short, light-touch assessment to confirm whether individual children have learnt **phonic** decoding to an appropriate standard.
 - It helps identify children who find phonic analysis difficult and may need extra help and support to improve their reading skills.
 - However, the reading support a child requires may not be additional phonics, but may be the use of other strategies to support reading progress. This is because phonic analysis is just one reading strategy and may not always be the most useful for some children, particularly for those children with SEN.

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- The Phonics Screening test uses a mixture of real words and ‘alien’ words for the children to sound out and blend back together again.
 - The child scores a point if s/he can either:
Correctly read the word on sight
or
Sound out and blend the sounds back into the word.
 - Words increase in difficulty as the test progresses.

(See example of test)

What the school does to support:

- In nursery and Reception, Phonics is taught using the Jolly Phonics scheme.

The five skills taught in Jolly Phonics:

1. Learning the letter sounds

Children are taught the 42 main letter sounds. This includes alphabet sounds as well as digraphs such as sh, th, ai and ue.

2. Learning letter formation

Using different multi-sensory methods, children learn how to form and write the letters.

3. Blending

- Children are taught how to blend the sounds together to read and write new words.



The five skills taught in Jolly Phonics (cont):

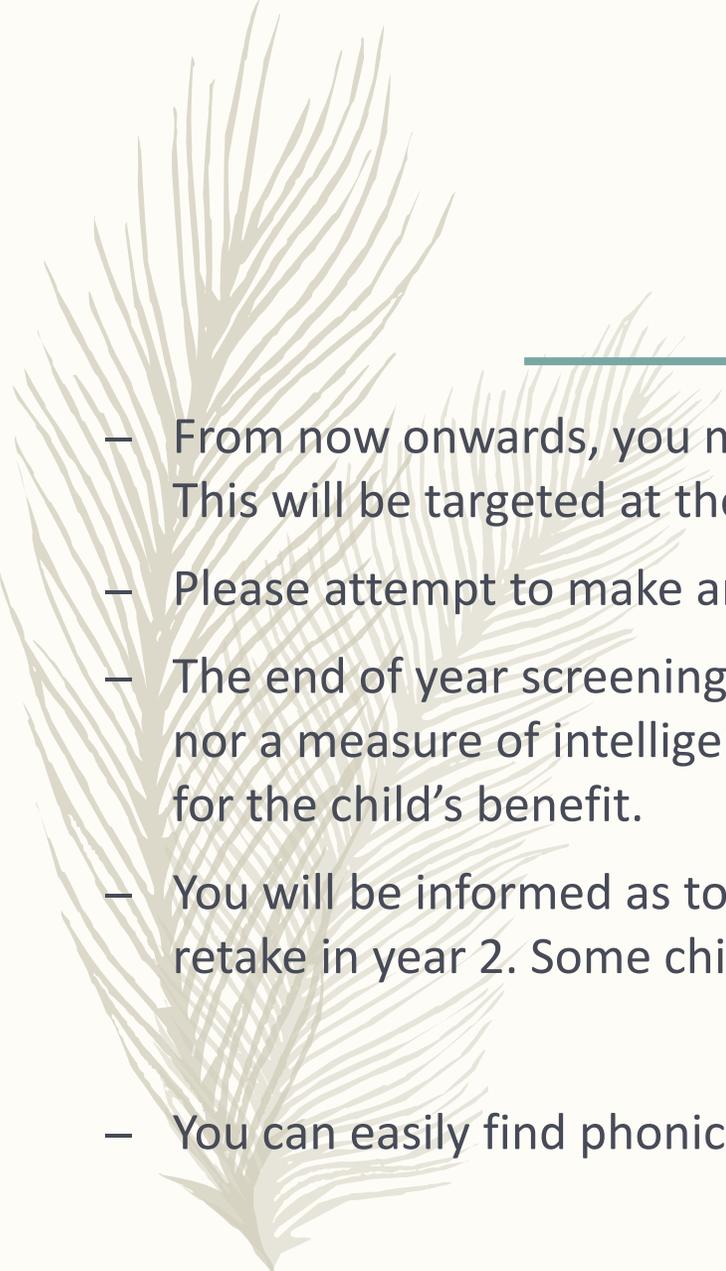
4. Identifying the sounds in words (Segmenting)

Listening for the sounds in words gives children the best start for improving spelling.

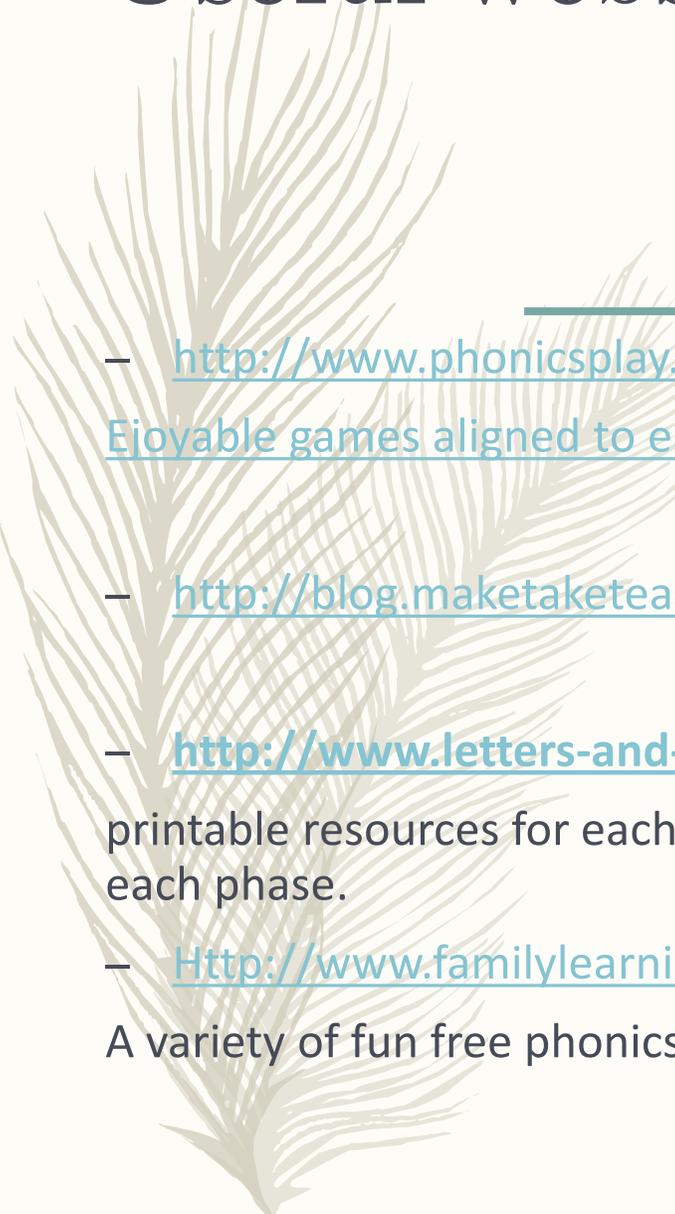
5. Tricky words

Tricky words have irregular spellings and children learn these separately.

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- Presently in Year 1, the Ruth Miskin's scheme is used. This will be replaced by Tower Hamlets Letters and Words next year.
 - All children are grouped and worked with on a daily basis. They are assessed and re-grouped every term.
 - The children have just been assessed using the phonics screening test in order to accurately predict those children in line for passing the threshold and diagnostically assess other children's gaps in learning.
 - From this assessment, children will be re-grouped; with needs targeted in order to close the gap and maximise the number of children reaching the phonics threshold by summer term.
 - It is likely that not all children will meet that threshold, for a range a variety of reasons, but every effort will be made to accelerate the children's learning as much as possible.

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- From now onwards, you may find that your child begins to come home with phonics homework. This will be targeted at their needs.
 - Please attempt to make any phonics homework as pleasurable and unpressured as possible.
 - The end of year screening should not be thought of as a sole measure of a child's ability to read, nor a measure of intelligence. It is a tool that can be useful if results are used diagnostically and for the child's benefit.
 - You will be informed as to whether your child has passed the threshold this year. Children may retake in year 2. Some children may be disallowed.
 - You can easily find phonics screening tests on line and a whole raft of videos on how to teach it.

Useful websites:



- <http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

[Enjoyable games aligned to each phonics phase. 'Buried Treasure' recommended](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/)

- <http://blog.maketaketeach.com/>

- <http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

printable resources for each of the Letters and Sounds phonic phases, also links to games aligned with each phase.

- [Http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html](http://www.familylearning.org.uk/phonics_games.html)

A variety of fun free phonics games.