

# BURRAWANG PUBLIC SCHOOL

24 Church St, Burrawang NSW 2577

T: 4886 4261 F: 4886 4248 E: burrawang-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

www.burrawang-p.schools.nsw.edu.au



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## Year 1 Phonics Screening

Dear Parents and Carers,

During Week 4 of this term, Year 1 students will participate in the department Phonics Screening Check to be administered by Mrs Hindmarch.

Phonics is the relationship between letters and sounds and is a vital skill when learning to read.

The short, quick assessment will identify exactly how your child is progressing in phonics. This will enable the identification of any specific supports that need to be put in place to help with your child's individual phonics development.

Each child will sit with Mrs Hindmarch and will be asked to read 40 words aloud. This will include 20 real words and 20 nonsense words. Nonsense words are used during the assessment to see if a student can use their knowledge of blending to read a word, rather than memory of what a word looks like if they have seen it before.

If a child is struggling at any point, the student will be stopped. The screening check has been carefully designed so as not to be stressful for your child. The test will only take a few minutes to complete.

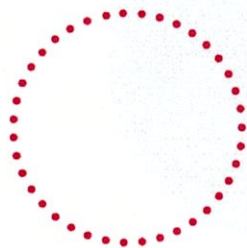
If you have any further questions about the check and your child's participation in it, Mrs Hindmarch is happy to meet with you on Friday of Week 3 (August 4th). Please call the office to make a time to meet with her after school.

Thank you,

Nathan Vanderwey  
Rel. Principal

Tahnae Hindmarch  
Assistant Principal, Curriculum and Instruction





# | Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

## Information for parents and carers

Phonics knowledge and skills are essential for learning to read and write. To be effective readers, students need to learn how to blend sounds together in words quickly so that they can read and understand the meaning.

### About the assessment

The Year 1 Phonics Screening Check is a quick assessment that tells teachers how your child is progressing in phonics.

Phonics is important for students who are learning to read. This screening check observes how your child can read words with different letter combinations.

The main purpose of the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check is to provide your child's teacher with information which will allow them to plan for your child's learning.

Each child is individually assessed by a teacher and all Year 1 students will be assessed.

### Why is phonics important?

To be successful readers, students need to learn the code for the English language - the sounds represented by individual letters or different letter combinations - and the skill of blending these sounds together to read words.

It is important for students to develop quick recall of the sounds represented by different letters and letter combinations, to support successful reading.

Developing blending skills, which is the ability to blend together sounds to read words, is also important. Beginning readers need to learn how to blend sounds together in words quickly and fluently, so as not to disrupt the flow of reading and their comprehension of the text.



## How will I support my child?

Children need frequent opportunities to practise and apply their developing phonics knowledge and skills. You may like to try some of the following activities at home with your child:

- Encourage your child to play games with letters such as bingo, snap or Scrabble. Support them to say the correct sound represented by individual letters and different letter combinations.
- Practise blending the sounds in simple, one syllable words together. For example, by first pointing to each letter in the word cat and saying each individual sound 'c-a-t', then reading again by blending all the sounds together 'caaaaat', and finally reading the word nice and fast 'cat'. When your child is confident with blending 3 letters together, support them to blend and read 4 letter words like frog (f-r-o-g, fffrrrog, frog).
- Model being a word detective and point out special letter patterns found when reading with your child. For example words with a 'ch' sound on the end are sometimes spelt with the letters tch, like the words match, catch and hatch.
- Support your child's reading success by providing them with plenty of opportunities to practise their phonics knowledge and blending skills by reading decodable books together. Decodable books are written using words with letters that your child has learnt. Ask your child's teacher to suggest decodable books with the correct phonics focus for your child.
- When reading books encourage your child to look at the words and 'sound out' any unfamiliar words, blending those sounds together, from left to right, to read the word. This is the best strategy and more helpful than looking at the pictures to guess the meaning.

