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Dear Parent/Carer

Trialling key stage 1 Phonics screening check materials

We are writing to let you know that your child's school has been selected to trial the phonics screening check materials for key stage 1. The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) is conducting this work for the Standards and Testing Agency (STA), which is part of the Department for Education. Each year STA will trial potential future national curriculum tests with a representative sample of children and schools across the country. This trial plays a critical role in developing tests that are valid, fair, accessible and reliable.

Pupils in your child's year group will complete the check on a set date during the period 16 to 27 June 2025. They will be selected through a random sample by the STA in advance of the testing.

This project is confidential so no report of this work will identify any school or pupil that participates. Pupils should not be under any additional stress by helping with this research and trialling. The purpose of these trials is to '**test the tests**' and not the children. Our test administrators engage with the children and explain that they are helping with research.

Pupils' background data will be collected from and confirmed with the school and will be used by STA in their analysis of the trial data.

Schools selected to take part in the trialling of these key stage 1 check materials have a statutory responsibility to participate. Further information is available at the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/statutory-participation-in-trialling-of-national-curriculum-assessments>

The privacy notice at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/privacy-information-early-years-foundation-stage-to-key-stage-3> sets out compliance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to ensure pupil data is securely processed. As these are tests in the development stage, schools do not receive results from these assessments.

Further information about these trials is available on our website <https://www.nfer.ac.uk/for-schools/participate-in-research/participate-in-research-projects/2025-key-stage-1-phonics-screening-check-technical-pre-test/>

Yours faithfully



Guvi Chohan
Senior Project and Delivery Manager
Research and Product Operations

.....
The Mere, Upton Park
Slough, Berks SL1 2DQ
.....
T: +44 (0)1753 574123
F: +44 (0)1753 691632
enquiries@nfer.ac.uk
.....
www.nfer.ac.uk