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June 2018

Dear parents/ carers,

Information for Parents and Carers Regarding Upcoming Reading Screening

As part of this term's assessments all pupils in Y2, Y3, Y4 and Y5 will be screened in school for potential reading difficulties. Screening means that all children are given a quick test to identify those who might need more additional support in their reading development or who may be at risk of dyslexia. The screening will be done as part of an evaluation project for a new screening tool here in the UK. This screening tool is already used in the US and Sweden. The tool has been developed by a company named Lexplore and their staff will come to the school and conduct the screening.

Our school has chosen to use this opportunity to evaluate all students' reading ability. School will share personal data with Lexplore, such as First name, surname, date of birth, Year Group, unique pupil number and gender through a formal data sharing agreement. Lexplore will only use and share the results on an anonymised basis with no reference to specific names.

Information from Lexplore regarding the screening

The students will be tested individually in a room close to their classroom. Before we start we say hello to the class, tell them why we are there, and what is about to happen. Then we bring the students one by one to the room where the screening takes place.

The screening starts by first asking the student to rapidly name some letters, and then reading one or two short passages of text on a computer screen. After each passage, we ask a simple question about what the child just read. While the child is reading, an eye-tracking device will record his or her eye movements. This device is placed at the bottom of the screen and does not affect the reading experience.

If a child has not yet started reading independently, we offer the child assistance or read together. It is important to us that all students leave the screening room with a good experience. Most students enjoy the screening and many ask if they can do it again. If a student feels anxious school will arrange for a familiar adult to sit in on the screening. All students receive positive feedback on their efforts.

Analysis and results

The recording of the eye movements will be compared to large numbers of other eye movements, answering the question of whether the child is at risk of persisting reading difficulties or not. The results will then be delivered back to the school for school staff to plan appropriate interventions for children identified by the screening as being at risk of having reading difficulties or dyslexia. Parents or carers can also get access to the results through the school. The data is encrypted and stored securely within the EU, only accessible by two-factor authentication login.

For more information, please visit: www.lexplore.com or contact Mrs. Mullane (Headteacher) or Ms. Whitehead (SENCo).

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. J. Mullane
Headteacher

