LEESLAND C of E FEDERATION

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Dear Year R Leesland Families

You may have seen reports in the media of a method of checking whether a child shows signs of Dyslexia or related problems in reading. This assessment is known as the Dyslexia Early Screening Test (DEST) and we plan to use it with parental permission with our Year R children.

The DEST is not a formal test and each part of it is designed to be fun. It takes about half an hour per child and has four sections which cover a range of early skills including the child's knowledge, language skills, speed, balance and hand – eye skills. by looking at a range of skills, we will find strengths as well as weaknesses and this can be very helpful when considering how best to help your child learn as well as possible. From the results of the DEST we can check whether or not your child might have subtle hearing or memory problems as these difficulties can make it harder to learn to read.

The short tests included can highlight areas where your child may benefit from some additional support. They do not give a diagnosis. If there is a history of difficulties in learning to read in your immediate family (yourself, spouse or your child's brothers or sisters) it would be helpful if you could note this down on the form.

2025-2026 DEST Testing Permission Form

Please complete the permission form even if you do not wish your child to be tested.

Yours sincerely

Year R team