



William Gilbert Endowed

(Church of England)

Primary School & Nursery

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Headteacher: Mrs E H Britten



9th May 2023

Dear Parents

I am writing to inform you of a statutory phonics check that your child will be undertaking at school during the week commencing the 12th June 2023. This phonic screening check has been introduced by the Government and affects all Year 1 pupils nationwide.

I would like to invite you into school for a short meeting where I can share the key messages about this check, what it means for your child and how best you can support your child before and after the screening check. There are two opportunities to attend a short information sharing meeting, either Tuesday 23rd May at 8.45am or Thursday 25th May at 6.00pm. Parents need only attend one of these sessions.

For those of you who cannot attend either of the above dates, I have detailed the key messages below and attach an information sheet provided by the Department for Education for all Year 1 parents. The presentation shared with parents will be added to the school website and your Weduc app.

[Phonics Screening online form – confirming attendance](#)

Key Messages for Year 1 Phonics Screening

- Children will sit with Mrs Britten in a familiar setting and be asked to read up to 40 words aloud. The children will be asked to read a mixture of real and 'non' words which will assess their ability to apply their decoding skills purely without relying on memory or vocabulary.
- The check will take between 4 and 9 minutes (information based on last years screening check). I will judge how far your child progresses through the check following specific guidelines to ensure equality and that your child remains relaxed throughout the check. If your child is struggling or experiences unease the check will be stopped.
- I must emphasise and reassure you that this phonic screen is conducted in a similar way to school based assessments that are familiar to your child and which they are comfortable with.
- Once the screen has been completed we will inform you in writing of how your child has performed. The standard that is expected for a Year 1 child to achieve within the screening check, changes slightly each year based on the complexity of the words to be read. The standard is set by the Government and shared with schools after administering the screening check. We will inform you in writing before the end of the summer term to explain if your child has met the expected standard, we will also explain how we will continue to support your child to meet the required standard if they did not achieve it during the screening check.

- The scores from the screening check are sent to the Government database and will be used as an indicator of the standards in phonics within our school compared to other schools locally and nationally. Scores are not shared publicly.
- I must also emphasise that this is not a reading assessment or test. It will not give a holistic view of your child's reading ability or level. Phonics is only one aspect of learning to read and this screening check does not assess your child's breadth of reading vocabulary, knowledge of high frequency words, reading comprehension or ability to interpret a text to answer questions and gain enjoyment, which are all vital elements of a fluent and successful reader.
- I will be making the screening check a relaxed experience that is a normal and familiar part of the school day. There will be no talk of tests or pressure on performance from any of the teachers and I request that this is supported at home. You do not need to do anything different to support and prepare your child for this screening check. Reading with your child, helping them with decoding unfamiliar words using their sounds or revising sound cards in your child's reading bag is all that is required. Activities that are already completed by you on a daily basis with your child.
- Here is a short video produced by Read Write Inc about the phonics screening check for you to watch.

[Video](#)

If you have any questions about this letter or the screening check and are unable to attend the meeting on either Tuesday 23rd or Thursday 25th May, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be happy to discuss your questions.

Kind Regards

H Britten
Headteacher