



# William Gilbert Endowed

(Church of England)

## Primary School & Nursery

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Headteacher: Mrs H E Britten



9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to inform you of a statutory phonics check that your child will be undertaking at school during the week commencing the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024. This phonics 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 the short information sharing meeting on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 which will take place during the school day.

For those of you who cannot attend the meeting I have detailed the key messages below and attach an information sheet provided by the Department for Education for all Year 1 parents.

### [Phonics Screening Meeting Online Form - Confirming Attendance](#)

#### **Key Messages for Year 1 Phonics Screening**

- Children will sit with Mrs Kibble 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 pseudo words which will assess their ability to apply their decoding skills purely without relying on memory or vocabulary.
- The check will take between 2 and 5 minutes. 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 phonics screen is conducted in a similar way to school-based assessments that are familiar to your child and which they are comfortable with.
- 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. This information will be sent with your child's end of year report in July.
- 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. When your child comes across a new word, we encourage them to use the approach used in school, 'Special Friends', 'Fred Talk', read the word. Continue with activities that are already completed by you on a daily basis with your child.

We teach children to read words using the routine 'Special Friends', 'Fred Talk', read the word'.

Children spot the 'Special Friends' (two or three letters) that make one sound), Fred talk the word, and then read the whole word.

For example: " 'sh', sh-i-p, ship "



Please see further resources and information below.



Scan the QR code to watch a short video from a RWI Phonics Set 3 Lesson

'Special Friends', 'Fred Talk', read the word'

Scan the QR code to watch a short video explaining the Phonics Screening Check



If you have any questions about this letter or the screening check and are unable to attend the meeting on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will be happy to discuss your questions.

Kind regards,

Mrs Z Kibble  
Deputy Headteacher