



# St Barnabas

Church of England Primary Academy

A member of **CTDARI**

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Phonics Screening Check Information

In December, your child will be undertaking the Phonics Screening check. This test is normally administered at the end of Year 1. However, due to Covid-19 this was not possible and the government has set a new timetable for the test which needs to be conducted this half term. Your child has had a practice test at the end of Year 1 and is aware of what the check looks like. Please do not worry about it- it is administered in a supportive environment with Miss Ashworth. I have added some information below about the screening check.

## **Information about the Phonics Screening Check**

The Year 1 phonics screening check is not a formal test, but a way for teachers to ensure that children are making sufficient progress with their phonics skills to read words and that they are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and for learning.

## **How do children complete the Phonics screening check?**

The checks consist of 40 words and non-words that your child will be asked to read one-on-one with a teacher. Non-words (or nonsense words, or pseudo words) are a collection of letters that will follow phonics rules your child has been taught, but don't mean anything – your child will need to read these with the correct sounds to show that they understand the phonics rules behind them.

Here is a video about nonsense words: <https://youtu.be/h-o3cQKjU18>

The 40 words and non-words are divided into two sections – one with simple word structures of three or four letters, and one with more complex word structures of five or six letters. The teacher administering the check with your child will give them a few practice words to read first – including some non-words – so they understand more about what they have to do. Each of the non-words is presented with a picture of a monster / alien, as if the word were their name (and so your child doesn't think the word is a mistake because it doesn't make sense!).

### **When will my child take the test?**

Due to ongoing school disruption caused by the pandemic, all primary school tests (including the Y1 Phonics Screening Check) were cancelled in the 2020/21 academic year.

In the 2021 to 2022 academic year, schools will administer a past version of the Check to Year 2 pupils in December, 2021. This will be conducted by Miss Ashworth on a 1:1 basis.

Year 2 pupils who do not meet the expected standard in autumn will take the Check again in June 2022, alongside Year 1 pupils.

### **Further information about Phonics**

To find out more about Phonics and how you can help your child, please have a look at our school website

<https://stbarnabasdarwen.co.uk/classes-curriculum/curriculum-overview/english#tab-4294>

The Oxford Owl website also has some fantastic videos and resources which you can find here:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/learn-to-read-phonics/>

Thank you,

Mrs Wilkinson

Acting Deputy Headteacher/SENDCo