



St Barnabas

Church of England Primary Academy

A member of **CTDARI**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Phonics Screening Check Information

In June, your child will be undertaking the Phonics Screening check. This test is administered towards the end of Year 1. Your child has had a practice test and is aware of what the check looks like. Please do not worry about it- it is administered in a supportive environment with myself, Mrs Wilkinson. 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 do not 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. Whilst administering the check with your child, I

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 to that they are aware it is a nonsense word.

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/>

Phonics play has some brilliant free games that your child can play:

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

Thank you,

Mrs Wilkinson

Deputy Headteacher/SENDCo