



1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Year 1 Phonics Screening Check**

I am writing to provide you with some important information about the upcoming statutory Year 1 Phonics Screening Check, which will take place during the week commencing Monday, 8th June 2026.

### What is the Phonics Screening Check?

The Phonics Screening Check is a quick and gentle assessment designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. It identifies children who may need a little extra support to improve their reading skills.

The check is carried out on a one-to-one basis with a familiar member of staff. It is designed to be relaxed and informal, feeling very much like the reading activities your child does every day.

### How Does the Check Work?

The check contains 40 words that your child will be asked to read aloud. Real words and 'alien' words: The list is a mix of 20 real words (e.g: cat, shed) and 20 pseudo-words, which we call 'alien' or 'nonsense' words (e.g: vob, grap).

### Why use alien words?

Alien words are included because they are completely new to all children. This means children cannot read them from memory; instead, they must use their decoding skills to sound them out. Alien words are always shown next to a picture of a friendly alien to make it clear to the child what they are.

### Results

We will share your child's results with you when the school reports are sent out. If your child does not reach the expected standard this year, we will put extra support in place, and they will have the opportunity to retake the check in Year 2.

If you have any questions or would like more information about how we teach phonics at school, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs Gartland**

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