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Headteacher: Mr Iain Witts

Dear Parent / Carer

### National Phonics Screening Test

We are writing to inform you about the National Phonics Screening Test which will take place in Key Stage 1 during the week **beginning Monday 10th June 2024.**

### **Who takes the test?**

All children in year 1. In addition, any child in year 2 who did not reach the required level when they took the test in year 1 will take the test again in year 2. If for any reason, we feel that there is a valid reason why your child should not take the test in Year 1, the class teacher will discuss this with you. Please note, this is only done in exceptional circumstances and your child would still be eligible to take the retake when they are in Year 2.

### **What is phonics?**

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read. They are taught how to:

- Recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes
- Identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make e.g. sh and oo
- Blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can then use this knowledge to segment and blend new words that they hear or see.

### **Why phonics?**

Research shows that when phonics is taught in a structured way – starting with the easiest sounds and progressing through to the most complex – it is the most effective way of teaching young children to read.

### **What is the phonics screening check?**

As you may have already heard, the government introduced an annual phonics screening check. This will further inform our continual assessment of the children's phonic knowledge and the results of the check will be shared with parents/carers in the end of year report.

It comprises of a list of 40 words that children read one-to-one with a teacher. The list is a combination of both real and made up, non-words which rely purely on using phonics to decode. The non-words are words that have been made up and will be shown with a picture of an imaginary creature to help them.

The phonics screening check will take place on a one to one but the children will largely be unaware of it being a test and have already participated in some practice ones.

We are holding a parent's awareness afternoon on both **Tuesday 23rd and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 3.20pm in 1A (Mrs Amos' classroom)** classroom to give further information about the expectation, delivery and content of the assessment as well as giving advice on how to help at home. We look forward to seeing you then.

Many thanks

Mrs A Amos  
Class Teacher

Mrs E Maund  
Class Teacher

Mrs S Bone  
Deputy Head