



**St Joseph's**

Catholic Primary School

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Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

**RE: Phonics Screening Check**

I am writing to inform you about the upcoming Phonics Screening Check (PSC). All schools are required to complete the PSC with children in Year 1 and any children in Year 2 who didn't reach the required standard when they were in Year 1.

The PSC takes place the week beginning the 12<sup>th</sup> June and will be administered by teachers working individually with each child for about 15 minutes. We approach this task sensitively and work positively with the children. The children have completed a number of mock PSC assessments alongside their daily phonics teaching, so this will not be a new experience for them. You will know when your child has completed their PSC as they will come home with a special phonics sticker.

The children are asked to read 40 words divided into two sections of 20 words. Both sections contain a mixture of real words and pseudo-words (nonsense-words, which we refer to as 'alien words'). The pseudo words are included because children can't read them using their memory or vocabulary knowledge so they have to use their phonic decoding skills. The children often complete activities in school using pseudo words, so this approach is not new to them.

All children in Year 1 will continue with phonics lessons for the rest of the academic year, after the PSC. Any children who do not meet the required standard in Year 1 will continue with focused 'keep-up' support and will repeat the PSC when they are in Year 2. Schools are required to report results to parents by the end of the school year so you will learn whether your child met the required standard when you receive your child's end of year report.

The PSC will take place during the week beginning 12th June 2023 and it is very important that your child attends school this week unless absolutely unavoidable. Please do not hesitate to contact myself if you need any further information or reassurance.

Yours faithfully,

**Miss L Dingley**

**EYFS/KS1 Lead & Early Reading Lead**

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**'Learn together and grow in God's love'**

Aspiration - Compassion - Community - Faith - Respect - Responsibility