



Archdiocese of  
Birmingham

# St. Maria Goretti Catholic Academy

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Dear Parents and Carers.

Phonics Screening Check - Year 1

## **What is phonics?**

Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully. Children are taught how to recognise the sounds each individual letter makes and to identify the sounds that different contributions of letters make such as 'sh' and 'oo'. Children are taught to read by breaking down words into separate sounds or 'phonemes'. They are then taught how to blend these sounds together to read the whole word.

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

The National phonics screening check is a statutory assessment that was introduced in 2012 to all Year 1 pupils and is a quick and easy check of your child's phonics knowledge. All year 1 pupils will take the phonics screening check in 2016 during the **week beginning 12th June**.

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

It comprises of a list of 40 words and nonsense words. It will assess phonics skills and knowledge learnt through reception and year 1. Your child will read one-one with a teacher. It will be your child's current teacher so it is a familiar face. They will be asked to 'sound out' a word and blend the sounds together.

## **What are Nonsense or Pseudo words and why are they included?**

These are words that are phonetically decode able but not actual words with an associated meaning e.g. brip, snorb. These words are included in the check specifically to assess whether you child can decode a word using phonic skills and not their memory. The pseudo words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. The children will be asked what the aliens name is by reading the word. This will make the check a bit more fun and provides the children with a context for the nonsense word. Crucially it does not provide any clues, so your child has to be able to decode it.

## **How will the results from the screening be used?**

You will be informed of your child's progress in phonics and how he or she has done in the screening check, towards the end of the summer term. All of the children are individuals and develop at different stages.

## **How can I help my child?**

There are a number of things that parents can do to support early reading development:

- Let your child see you enjoy reading yourself. They are influenced by you and what you do!
- Immerse your child in a love of reading

- Make time for your child to read their school book to you
- With all books, encourage your child to 'sound out' unfamiliar words and then blend from left to right.

**We will also be offering a phonics workshop which will inform you about the phonics screening test and how it is implemented in school. The phonics workshop will take place on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 9.00am.**

There are many phonic games for children to access on the computer.

[www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)

[www.lettersandsounds.com](http://www.lettersandsounds.com)

We hope this information is useful. Remember, we are here to help your child achieve their very best. If you have any questions please ask your child's class Teacher or TA.

We are all happy to help.

Yours Sincerely

Miss L Wright – Year 1, Class Teacher



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