

4.12.20



Dear Parents,

This week we have reassessed your child's phonic knowledge. I am pleased to say all children have improved since our initial assessments in September. In fact, I am very pleased with the progress they have made.

For your information I have attached a copy of the phase 3 and phase 5 graphemes we have been revising and learning in school. I have highlighted any sounds your child did not know. For each sound there are some real and pseudo (made up) words for them to practise their recognition and decoding. If your child has no sounds highlighted that means they could recognise and say them all when asked. 😊

As you may remember usually children in year one take part in a phonics screening check in June. Due to lockdown measures your child did not do this in Year One. Therefore, the Government decided earlier this term that all children currently in Year 2 must complete a past screening check by the end of the Autumn term. We at St Mary's believe the class is now ready to do this and we will begin this next week. Your child will work one to one with myself to read 40 words (a mix of real and pseudo words) over the course of the next two weeks. The phonics screening check is very similar to the assessments we administer in school to monitor your child's progress so they will be familiar with the process.

If your child is able to decode and read 32+ out of 40 words correctly by themselves they will have reached the expected standard and will not need to compete any further Government standardised phonics testing. However, if they don't reach this pass mark they will need to complete another phonics screening check in June alongside the current Year One children. We will of course let you know of your child's results once all children have completed the phonics screening check.

I think the children have done very well this term catching up and developing their phonics. We have prioritised phonics learning this term and their improvement shows in their phonics and reading lessons. However, repetition and practise are key so please continue to read with your child at home each day and have a look through the sounds we have highlighted for them to work on. All of your support is really appreciated.

If you have any questions regarding phonics or the screening check please speak to me at the school gate. I would be happy to help.

Many thanks,

Miss Hargrove.