

6th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are so proud of how well your children have returned to school. They have settled so well, after months of lockdown and the summer break. Thank you for the support you gave to your child's home learning during the period of lockdown.



Now that we are back at school and learning in our new year groups, we are working hard with your children, to help them be successful in their learning. Our **phonics learning is crucial** to your child's success in reading and writing. This is where we need your help. Despite you, your child, and their teachers working so hard during lockdown, our children have missed a lot of learning and there are gaps which we need to try to fill so they can catch up and keep up.

This academic year, children in Year One & Year Two classes will take the government's Phonics Screening, an assessment of children's ability to read words accurately. Year Two children will take the assessment in **December 2020**, and Year One in June 2021. Success in this assessment will set your child in really good stead for their learning as they move through the school. To help prepare your child for this assessment, school staff are providing at least 2 phonics learning sessions every day, and extra small group sessions. We would like to ask you to help with this, by supporting your child to complete tasks at home, which will be set by their class teacher.

Some parents find they become worried when trying to help children with phonics at home. One of the most important things to remember is that when making the sounds, they need to be "pure" sounds, not letter names. We would read this word: "mmm,a,d, mad," rather than "muh, ah, duh."

You can find out more about reading using phonics at:

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkXcabDUg7Q>

This video will help you to understand phonics

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXOJUPNVnLc&list=RDCMUCo7fbLgY2oA_cFCIg9GdxtQ&index=3

You can also find out more about the Phonics Screening check here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LbKGLJPp6ww&list=RDCMUCo7fbLgY2oA_cFCIg9GdxtQ&index=6

mad

We will provide your child with a variety of activities for home. In addition, please use the following websites for fun ways of practising your child's phonics:

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>



You can login for free to this website UNTIL 21ST OCTOBER. User name March 20, Password home

Another website has lots of free games: <https://www.phonicsbloom.com/>



DON'T FORGET THAT READING YOUR CHILD'S READING BOOK EVERY DAY WITH YOUR CHILD IS EXCELLENT PRACTICE, TOO.

Miss Nicholls is going to provide free Reading Hampers for children and families who take part and make a huge effort in this extra learning practice at home- we will be able to tell by the progress your child makes! It won't take long to tell. If you have any questions, please ask.

Working together with home and school will give your child the very best opportunities in their reading and writing.

Thank you for your continued support. Please ask if you have any questions.

Mrs Ward, Miss Haresign, Miss Housley-Stott 😊

Early Years and KS1 Team

Please complete the slip to confirm you want to support your child at home with extra phonics activities:

I agree to carry out extra phonics activities with my child at home to support them to be successful in the Phonics Screening Assessment

Name of child: _____

Parent's name _____

Parent's signature _____

Date _____