



HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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God Love Family

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Dear Parents,

As you will be aware, the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check will begin on the week commencing Monday 12th June 2023. It is designed to show how well children can use their decoding and phonics skills they have learned, and to help identify any pupils who may need extra support with their reading.

The screening is nothing to worry about at all – it takes approximately five minutes to deliver. Each child is asked to read 40 words to a member of staff known to the child. 20 of the words are pseudo words, or ‘alien words’, that children need to sound out and blend to show they understand the phonics rules. These words have an alien next to them, to highlight that these are words with no meaning. Children are well used to this from our everyday classroom practise.

Children then have a further 20 words to read, that are familiar words, such as ‘coin’, ‘spring’, ‘charming’, ‘bowl’, ‘saucer’, ‘trapeze’ and ‘concrete’.

The ‘pass mark’ is not made available to teachers at this stage, though traditionally has been set at 32 out of 40. Children who do not meet the threshold will need to re-sit the screening at the end of Year 2.

We teach phonics and reading every day in school, so your child will be well practised in the skills of sounding out and blending to read unfamiliar words.

However, if you would like any extra practise materials, please ask your child’s class teacher for resources. We have many ‘booster’ sheets designed for target practise on particular grapheme-phoneme correspondences (letters and the sounds they make). Your child’s “Reading Rockets” booklet also provides lists of words for practise. As always, regular reading at home will also support your child with their decoding skills.

The below website also contains previous screening tests, to familiarise your child with the format, though this is something that they have regularly seen in school.

<https://www.satspapers.org.uk/Page.aspx?TId=21>

Please do ask if you need any further help or support, we are more than happy to help.

Kind regards,

Year 1 Teaching Team

Gerida Montague

Executive head teacher

Purple Rocket Words Set 1

acorn	basic	wash	want	watch
evil	equal	find	mind	child
kind	final	old	don't	cold
told	both	open	okay	music
human	pupil	helpful	bull	bush

I can read these words (home)
 I can read these words (school)

BOOSTER Flash and Chell's Challenge

waits	toad	see	Nonsense Words
snail	sigh	speed	
zoom	claim	bright	
looks	feel	hail	
weep	deer	soap	
			brait
			sheeg
			brigh
			poast
			choop

