

St Mark's C of E School

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Executive Headteacher: Mrs Stephanie Bryant

Head of School Primary: Mrs Lorraine Hoad

Head of School Secondary: Mr Ben Godber



Wednesday 23rd April 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

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 during the second week after half term (9th-13th June) and is 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 and interventions, 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 certificate.

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 intervention 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 9th June 2025 and it is very important that your child attends school this week unless absolutely unavoidable. Please do not hesitate to contact myself, Miss Barnard or the Year 1 class teachers if you need any further information or reassurance.

We have also uploaded this letter as well as an information booklet onto the school website if you would like further information.

Miss Barnard will be holding a meeting for parents to further discuss the administration of the test for parents of Year 1 students. This will happen 2.30 - 2.50pm on Wednesday 21st May. **Please confirm if you will be attending the meeting via the SCOPAY app.**

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "L Hoad".

Lorraine Hoad
Head of Primary