

Dear Parents,

Next week, your children will be taking part in the 'Phonics Screening Check'.

### What is the Phonics Screening check?

All children in Year 1 throughout the country are required to take part in a phonics screening check during the same week (from June 13<sup>th</sup>). Children in Year 2 will also take the check if they did not achieve the required result when in Year 1 or they have not taken the test before. The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether individual children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to the required standard. It is not an assessment of their overall reading ability (as it does not consider sight recognition skills or comprehension).

### What Happens During the Screening?

The assessment contains 40 words. Each child will sit one-to-one with a known adult (usually Miss Venn) and read each word aloud. The test takes approximately 10 minutes per child, although all children are different and will be allowed to complete the check at their own pace. The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 alien words (made-up words). These made up words are designed to purely assess children's phonic skills, as sounding out and blending are the only way they can be read.

Our approach at Samuel White's is very friendly and low-key and we find the children actually really enjoy the chance to have a short time out of class and earn a special sticker!

### Reporting to Parents

By the end of the summer term, schools are required to report each child's results to their parents. We will also confirm if your child has met the standard threshold. You will receive this information with your child's end of year report. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in Year 2.

If your child is due to be absent from school this week (13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> June) please let your class teacher know, and as always, please come and speak to us if you have any further questions or concerns.

Miss Venn (KS1 Leader)