



**E P COLLIER**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Nurture Discover Achieve

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to inform you about the National Phonics Screening Test which will take place the week of **8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026**. All children in Year 1 will take the test, including any child in Year 2 who did not take the test in Year 1 or did not reach the required level when they took it.

The check consists of 40 words and usually lasts 5 to 10 minutes. Some words are real, and others are nonsense or 'alien', words that help to show whether pupils can decode words they haven't seen before.

The check helps us to see:

- how pupils are progressing in phonics
- where to provide additional teaching and support

If, for any reason, we feel that there is a valid reason why your child should not take the test in Year 1, the class teacher will discuss this with you. Please note, this is only done in exceptional circumstances and your child would still be eligible to take the retake when they are in Year 2.

We will tell you about your child's progress in phonics and their Phonics Screening Check result as part of the end-of-year report.

Phonics works best when children are given plenty of encouragement and learn to enjoy reading and books. Parents and carers play a very important part in helping with this.

Some simple tips to help your child learn to read through phonics:

- Step 1 – identify 'special friends'
- Step 2 – Fred talk the sounds (say each sound separately)
- Step 3 – read the word (blend sounds together)
- Use the videos uploaded on the school website to support your child to practice reading a mixture of real and nonsense words.
- Watch the RWI videos shared on the school website to support with any sound gaps.
- Try to make time to read with your child every day.

We have a Phonics Screening workshop on **Wednesday 6th May, 2.30-3 pm** to share further information about the Phonics Screening check and provide an opportunity for you to ask any questions. I hope to see you there.

If you have any questions, please come and see me.

Yours sincerely

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