



Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

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Mr Andrew Truby
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Dear Mr. Truby

/ November 2019

I would like to congratulate you, your staff and your pupils on your school's outstanding achievements in the 2019 phonics screening check. Your excellent teaching of phonics is something I hope to see replicated across the country: decoding skills are the foundations for pupils to progress to reading fluently, for purpose and for enjoyment.

There is a substantial body of evidence that demonstrates that systematic phonics is a highly effective method for teaching children to read. We want to ensure that every child develops a firm grasp of phonics, which is why I was delighted to see your results. With 98 per cent of pupils at St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School reaching or exceeding the pass mark in the check, your school is in the top three per cent of all primary schools in the country.

This year's figures show that 88 per cent of pupils who achieve the expected standard in the check go on to achieve at least the expected standard in key stage 1 reading teacher assessment, which underlines the importance of teaching pupils to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation in literacy, from which they can develop excellent vocabulary and cultivate a love of reading that can last a lifetime.

As an English Hub you are instrumental in spreading excellent teaching of phonics and reading. Thank you for your contribution to improving the life chances of not only your own pupils but also pupils in the most disadvantaged schools in your area.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely
Nick Gibb