



Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP
Minister for Schools

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tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe

Miss Esther Whitbourn
South Farnham School
Surrey
Menin Way
Farnham
GU9 8DY

08 January 2024

Dear Miss Whitbourn,

I am writing to congratulate you on your school's outstanding achievement in the 2023 Phonics Screening Check.

We want to ensure every child develops a firm grasp of phonics as the basis on which to improve standards of reading. As such I was delighted to see your results.

With 98 per cent of pupils in Year 1 at South Farnham School meeting the expected standard in the check, your school is in the top 2 per cent of all primary schools in the country.

The latest figures show that 83 per cent of pupils who met the expected standard in the check went on to achieve at least the expected standard in reading at key stage 2 in 2023, which underlines the importance of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

Your particular success in teaching phonics and early reading so effectively means your pupils are developing a firm foundation, from which they can become increasingly fluent and develop a lifelong love of reading.

I would like to thank you for your commitment and success in this vital area of a child's early education and congratulate you, your staff and pupils again on all you have achieved.

Yours sincerely,

Damian Hinds

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Dear Miss Whitbourn,

I am writing to congratulate you on your school's achievements in the 2023 multiplication tables check.

Your average pupil score of 25 out of 25 makes South Farnham School one of the top 200 performing schools in England for the multiplication tables check. The excellent achievement of your pupils is something the Government hopes to see replicated in schools across the country.

Knowing times tables is vital for school and day-to-day life. Recalling multiplication and division facts up to 12x12 is important for progression in maths. That is why we introduced these checks, as a helpful tool for teachers to identify those pupils who need extra support.

I would like both to congratulate your staff and pupils for their hard work and to thank you for your leadership in continuing to promote the important subject of mathematics.

Yours sincerely,

Damian Hinds
Minister for Schools