



Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP
Minister of State for School Standards

Sanctuary Buildings, 20 Great Smith Street, Westminster, London, SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/help/contactus

Mrs Claire Donnachie
South Farnham School
Menin Way
Farnham
Surrey
GU9 8DY

/ November 2019

Dear Mrs Donnachie,

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 99 per cent of pupils at South Farnham 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.

Thank you for your commitment and success in teaching the next generation to read so effectively.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Gibb', written in a cursive style.