

[www.copelandroad.durham.sch.uk](http://www.copelandroad.durham.sch.uk)

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Nick Gibb MP  
Minister of State for School Reform

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

Mr R Nodding  
Copeland Road Primary School  
West Auckland  
Bishop Auckland  
DL14 9JJ

14 October 2014

Dear Mr Nodding,

I am writing to convey my warmest congratulations to you, your staff and your pupils for the very high standard of achievement in this year's phonics check.

The Department for Education wants to ensure that every child develops a firm grasp of phonics so I was obviously delighted to see your results. To be in the top 5% of schools, with at least 95% of pupils achieving the expected standard in the check, is a tremendous achievement and points to a high standard of phonics teaching in your school.

This year's figures show that almost all pupils who achieve the expected standard in the check go on to achieve at least the expected standard in Key Stage 1 Reading, which underlines the value of developing the ability to decode words effectively at an early age.

You have ensured that every Year 1 child in your school has a firm foundation for reading, from which they can develop further reading skills and become increasingly sophisticated readers. This will help them develop a lifelong love of reading.

Thank you for your work in this vital area of a child's early development and congratulations again to you and your staff for your hard work and professionalism.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Gibb MP

The letter opposite is to the school from the Minister of State for School Reform. He has acknowledged the hard work of the children and staff in last year's phonics check. The results achieved were well above Local and National Levels. It is always pleasing when someone recognises the good work, learning and commitment by the children and staff.

Well done everyone

**Treat, Non Uniform  
and Christmas Dinner Day  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December**

**On treat day this year we are going to make it a special Christmassy day by encouraging the children to dress in a festive way, they can wear Christmas colours or Christmas Jumpers etc . We are asking for £1 for non-uniform which will be donated to the Save the Children appeal.**



**NEW RECEPTION PUPILS FOR  
SEPTEMBER 2015**

Parents of nursery aged children, who are due to start primary school next year need to apply to the Local Authority for a place in schools. Applications need to be made by Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015. Applications can be made online during the Autumn term. If any parents, with children in any nursery in the area, would like to visit Copeland Road Primary School please contact the school office on 01388 832576 to arrange a visit. Parents from any nursery school can enrol in any primary school.

*Adventure Valley*

*Yesterday Classes 1, 2 and 3 went to the Adventure Valley Winter Wonderland in Durham. Despite the cold they had a great day and enjoyed meeting the animals (especially Frosty the reindeer), playing on the bouncy castles in the barn and meeting Mr. and Mrs. Claus and their elves. They all got a present from Santa. They had a very enjoyable day.*