

Phonics Screening Check

2026

Sacred Heart RC Primary



Definitions

- **A phoneme you hear**



- **A grapheme you see**



Children need to practise recognising the grapheme and saying the phoneme that it represents.

In Year One, we continue to explore the digraphs for which the children know as 'two letters representing one sound', for example the /r/ in rocket and the alternative /wr/ as in write. We recognise that they look the same but sound different.

A trigraph is 3 letters but one sound for example /igh/ in night.

The children learn that these digraphs and trigraphs can be found in many words with multiple



What is the phonics screening check?

- The phonics screening check is a quick and easy check of your child's phonics knowledge. It is designed to evaluate a child's ability to decode words using their phonics
- The national phonics screening check was introduced in 2012 to all Year 1 pupils in the country.
- It is a short, statutory assessment to ensure children are making sufficient progress in their phonics skills. It is hoped that children who are on track to become fluent readers who can enjoy reading for pleasure and for learning.



When will the phonics screening take place?

- In 2026, the check will take place during the week commencing **Monday 8th June 2026**.
- Please make sure that your child attends school this week.

JUNE 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	×	×	×	×	×	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	Juneteenth	27
28	29	30				

www.Calendar20.com

How does the check work?

- Your child will sit with the class teacher and will be asked to read 40 words aloud. The test normally takes 10/15 minutes. If your child is struggling the teacher will stop the check. The check is carefully designed not to be stressful for your child.
- The check consists of a list of 40 words, half real words and half nonsense words, the nonsense words will be shown to your child with a picture of an alien. This not only makes the check a bit more fun but also provides the children with a context for the nonsense word which is independent from any existing vocabulary they may have.
- The pass mark since the check started has been 32/40.



Example past checks

Section 2

brend



throst



stret



spraw



Section 2

label

vanish

blossom

thankful

Why Pseudo Words/non- words / nonsense words / alien words?

- Pseudo words are important to include as they can't be read using their vocabulary or from memory; the children must use their decoding skills.
- This is a fair way to assess all children's ability to decode.

stip



prool



darps





After the check



- **We will inform you on your child's progress at the end of the Summer term in your child's end of year report.**
- **If your child found the test difficult, we will inform you of what support we have put in place to help them improve as they move into Year 2 and what you can do at home to help them as well.**
- **Children who have not met the standard will retake the check when they are in Year 2.**
- **All children are individuals, and all develop at different rates. The screening check ensures that teachers understand which children need extra help with phonic decoding.**

How can you help your child?

- In school we are continually checking your children's phonic development within our approach to the assessment of reading. This screening forms part of our overall assessment procedure. However, there are several things that parents can do to support early reading skill development:
- Let your child see you enjoying reading yourself – they are influenced by you and what you value!
- Immerse your child in a love of reading: share books and magazines with your child, take them to the library to choose books, read to them regularly, point out texts around you, e.g. in the street, in restaurants etc.



- Make time for your child to read schoolbooks to you regularly – encourage them by pointing to the words and ask them about the story they are reading.
- Read the real and nonsense words sent home by your child's class teacher.
- Share the Supersonic Phonic Friends newsletter with your child. Get them to read the words to you and can they have a go at Cheeky Sid's challenge?

supersonic
Phonic Friends
Parent Newsletter
The Higher Levels Choose to Use Group 2

This group's Choose to use spellings				
 ay, ay and a, e rain, clay & cake	 ee, ee and i, e bee, leaf & concrete	 igh, ie and i, e fight, pie & slide	 oa, oe and o, e boat, toe & die	 oo, oo and u, e moon, blue & cube
Choose to Use Rule				
Hear in the middle choose to use ai or ia, ai & Hear it at the end choose to use ay)	Hear in the middle choose to use ee or ee, ee, ee & Hear it at the end choose to use ee)	Hear in the middle choose to use igh or i, e & Hear it at the end choose to use i)	Hear in the middle choose to use oa or oa, oa & Hear it at the end choose to use oa)	Hear in the middle choose to use oo or oo, oo & Hear it at the end choose to use oo)
Write with both spellings, have a good look and see. Which one looks like the right spelling for me? Test Tricky Words:				
 -their people My Mes oh these friend asked Sid's Cheeky Challenge				
Can you make a silly sentence with all the pictures above?				
Next group Choose to Use Spellings				
 oi and oy coin & toy	 ur and ir burp & skirt	 ow and ou down & cloud	 or and ow fort & hawk	 oi and oi wig & white