

Phonics Vocabulary

These are terms we may use throughout our phonics documents and with the children when teaching them.

Phoneme – the smallest single identifiable sound in a word

Grapheme – a letter or group of letters representing one sound (e.g. t, sh, air)

Grapheme-Phoneme Correspondence (GPC) - the relationship between sounds and the letters which represent those sounds

Digraph – two letters representing one sound (e.g. ch, th, ai, oa)

Split digraphs – two letters, split, representing one sound, e.g. a_e in 'cake'; i_e in 'dice'

Trigraph – three letters representing one sound (e.g. igh, air, ear, ure)

Consonant Cluster – letters that make separate sounds e.g. the first two letters of 'croak' are a consonant cluster as they keep their individual sounds 'c' and 'r' (whereas, in contrast, 'oa' is a digraph as it represents one sound)

Blend – to push individual sounds together for reading, e.g. c-a-t, blended together reads 'cat'

Segment – to split up a word into its individual phonemes in order to spell it e.g. break the word 'cat' up into its three phonemes: c a t

Word Structures:

VC: vowel- consonant e.g. in, am

CVC: consonant- vowel- consonant e.g. cat, rain, mouth

CCVC: consonant- consonant- vowel- consonant e.g. stop, throat, fright

CVCC: consonant -vowel -consonant- consonant e.g. hand, text

CCCVC: consonant -consonant- consonant- vowel -consonant e.g. strap, struck