

Phonics Glossary

- **Sound(s)** – noises, sounds in the environment etc.
- **GPC** - This is short for Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence. Knowing a GPC means being able to match a phoneme to a grapheme and vice versa.
- **Phoneme**- smallest unit of sound/pure sound (which can be represented by a grapheme)
- **Digraph**- two letters making one sound (sh)
- **Split Vowel Digraph**- split digraph contains two letters (a-e/ e-e/ i-e/ o-e/ u-e) but they are split between a consonant, for example; make, bike, complete, rope, tune.
- **Trigraph**- three letters making one sound (igh)
- **Grapheme** - the written representation of a sound (letter names)
- **Oral Blending**- this involves hearing phonemes and being able to merge them together to make a word. Children need to develop this skill before they will be able to blend written words.
- **Blending** - this involves looking at written word, identifying each grapheme then merging these phonemes together to make a word (ch-o-p= chop)
- **Oral Segment** – this is the act of hearing a whole word and then splitting it up into the phonemes that make it (chop- ch-o-p). Children need to develop this skill before they will be able to segment words to be able to spell them.
- **Segment** - break up and identify individual phonemes in words
- **Tricky words/common exception words** – words that do not follow common phonic rules which need to be learned by sight (e.g. said)
- **Sound buttons** - We use sound buttons under letters to identify the individual phonemes in words. Additional lines are placed beneath digraphs and trigraphs to indicate that these letters make one phoneme.
- **Pseudo Words** – a word that has no meaning e.g chod, flarm and strabe
- **CVC**- these are words made up of a consonant, vowel and consonant, for example hop, ship and church. As children progress through the Letter and Sounds phases they will be taught to read and write more challenging words such as CVCC, CCVC and polysyllabic words.