

A Phonics Glossary

Here are some explanations of words and phrases your child's teacher may use:

Blend	Saying the individual sounds that make up a word and then merging or blending the sounds together to say the word – used when reading
Consonant	Most letters of the alphabet (excluding the vowels: a,e,i,o,u).
CVC words	Abbreviation used for consonant-vowel-consonant words, used to describe the order of sounds. Some examples of CVC words are: cat, pen, top Other similar abbreviations include: - VC words e.g. on, is, it. - CCVC words e.g. trip and flat. - CVCC words e.g. milk and fast
Digraph	Two letters which together make one sound, e.g. ee, oa, ea, ch, ay. There are several different types of digraph: - Vowel digraph: a digraph in which at least one of the letters is a vowel, for example; boat or day. - Consonant digraph: two consonants which can go together, for example, shop or thin. - Split digraph (previously called magic e): two letters, which work as a pair to make one sound, but are separated within the word, such as a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e. For example, cake or line.
Grapheme	Written letters or a group of letters which represent one single sound (phoneme), e.g. a, l, sh, air, ck.
Phoneme	A single sound that can be made by one or more letters (graphemes), e.g. s, k, z, oo, ph, igh
Phonics Phase	There are 6 phases taught within phonics lessons. More details can be found below.
Pure sound	Pronouncing each letter sound clearly and distinctly without adding additional sounds to the end, e.g. 'ffff' not 'fuh
Segment	This is the opposite of blending (see above). Splitting a word up into individual sounds – used when spelling and writing
Tricky words	Words that are difficult to sound out, e.g. said, the, because
Trigraph	Three letters which go together make one sound, e.g. ear, air, igh, dge, tch.
Vowel	The letters a, e, i, o, u

