



## Phonics Terminology – A Parent Guide

Hi there Parents and Carers,

We thought it would be a really good idea to share the terminology that is used by the teachers and children (they are amazing with this vocabulary) in phonics sessions and when reading/ writing. We hope that you find this useful.

### **Phoneme**

The smallest unit of sound in a word. There are approximately 44 phonemes in English (it depends on different accents). Phonemes can be put together to make words.

### **Grapheme**

A way of writing down a phoneme. This could be one letter or a group of letters (i, ie, igh, i\_e)

### **Grapheme-Phoneme Correspondence (GPC)**

It is the relationship between sounds and the letter, or letters, that represent that sound. Knowing a GPC means being able to match a phoneme to a grapheme and vice versa.

### **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 a written word, looking at each grapheme and using knowledge of GPCs to work out which phoneme each grapheme represents and then merging these phonemes together to make a word. This is the basis of reading.

### **Oral Segmenting**

This is the act hearing a whole word and then splitting it up into the phonemes that make it. Children need to develop this skill before they will be able to segment words to spell them.

## Segmenting

This involves hearing a word, splitting it up into the phonemes that make it, using knowledge of GPCs to work out which graphemes represent those phonemes and then writing those graphemes down in the right order. This is the basis of spelling.

## Digraph

Two letters that work together to make one sound (e.g. ee)

## Trigraph

Three letters that work together to make one sound (e.g. igh)

## Useful Websites

How to pronounce the phonemes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwJx1NSineE>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

<https://www.teachyourmonster.org/>

<https://www.phonicsbloom.com/>

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/age-specific-resources-parents/english-main-subjects-parents/phonics-english-main-subjects-parents>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/5-7-years/letters-and-sounds>

We do offer parents phonics sessions during the year but please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about your child's phonics or phonics at our school.

Kind regards,

Mrs Back

Phonics Lead

