



Phonics Terminology

What is phonics?

Words are made up from small units of sound called phonemes. Phonics teaches children to be able to listen carefully and identify the phonemes that make up each word. This helps children to learn to read words and to spell words. In phonics lessons children are taught three main things:

- **Blending** - Children are taught to be able to blend. This is when children say the sounds that make up a word and are able to merge the sounds together until they can hear what the word is. This skill is vital in learning to read e.g. d-a-m-p, damp; t-e-n-t, tent.
- **Segmenting** - Segmenting is the opposite of blending. Children are able to say a word and then break it up into the phonemes that make it up. This skill is vital in being able to spell words e.g. b-a-t v-a-n r-ai-n
- **GPCs** - This stands for grapheme phoneme correspondences. This simply means that they are taught all the phonemes in the English language and ways of writing them down. These GPCs are taught in a particular order e.g. the first phonemes to be taught are in Set 1: m, a, s, d, t, i, n, p

Phoneme - a sound

Grapheme - the letters that are used to record a sound

Digraph - 2 letters that are used to record a sound

Trigraph - 3 letters that are used to record a sound

Fred talk - when we split a word up into its sounds (oral segmenting)

Fred fingers - when we press the sounds in a word onto our fingers to help us spell words

Green words - words which are decodable and follow the rules we teach children about which letters make which sounds, such as 'man' and 'handbag'

Red words - exceptions which don't follow the rules we have taught children about letters making particular sounds (*you can't Fred a red*), sometimes called 'common exception words' or 'tricky words.' Included are words like 'the' and 'come.'

Letter names - the names the 26 letters have been given in the alphabet

Special friends - 2 or 3 letters which make one sound (digraph or trigraph)

Split digraph - a sound where the two letters are split up so the e sits on the end of the word (**chatty special friends**)

Chatty special friends - letters which are so chatty a good letter has to sit in-between them now but they are sneaky and still hold hands behind the good letters back and make one sound (the e sits on the end of the word), a **split vowel digraph**

Rose Review - a report made to the government which meant the government recommended synthetic phonics teaching in all primary schools

Simple speed sounds chart - a table which shows all the first sounds taught

Complex speed sounds chart - a table which shows several different ways to spell sounds (one sound in each cell)

RWInc - Read Write Inc is a phonics scheme created by Ruth Miskin and used across the UK in primary schools to teach reading and writing

Sound buttons - the markings we put underneath words to indicate sounds (a dot for a single sound and a line underneath letters which make a sound with 2 or more letters)

Syllables - a set of sounds which make a part of a word, you can hear them when you split a word up into 'claps'

Multisyllabic/Polysyllabic - a word which contains many syllables

Y1 Phonics Screening Check - the national test children take in the Summer Term of Y1 where they individually read 40 words to their teacher including real and 'alien' nonsense words