Phonics Glossary

Letters – the 26 letters of the alphabet.

Vowel – the letters a, e, i, o, u.

Consonant – all the letters that are not vowels.

Grapheme – the written representation of a sound or phoneme made up of one or more letters.

Phoneme – the smallest possible units of sounds that makes up a word.

Digraph – two letter grapheme (ea, ay)

Trigraph – three letter grapheme (igh, ear)

Quadgraph – four letter grapheme (eigh)

Split digraph – where the letter 'e' at the end of the word changes the vowel sound, e.g. snake, flute or mike.

Common exception words – words that are not so easily; or impossible to decode using phonics.

Grapheme-Phoneme correspondence (GPC) – the process of identifying that a grapheme represents a phoneme or sound.

Segment – breaking down words into their smallest possible phonemes or phonemes.

Blend – to join the phonemes or sounds together to make a word.

Decode – when phonics is used for reading.

Encode – when phonics is used for spelling.