

## Phonics Glossary

Term	What does it mean?
Phoneme	A single sound that can be made by one or more letters – e.g. s, k, z, oo, ph, igh.
Grapheme	Written letters or a group of letters which represent one single sound (phoneme) e.g. a, l, sh, air, ck.
Fred talk	Saying the individual sounds that make up a word and then merging or blending the sounds together to say the word.
Fred fingers	Representing each sound in a word with one of our fingers as an aid to spelling.
Dot	A mark to represent the single sounds in a word.
Dash	A mark to represent the digraphs and trigraphs in a word.
Digraph (Special friend)	Two letters which together make one sound e.g. ee, oa, ea, ch, ay.
Trigraph (Special friend)	Three letters which go together make one sound e.g. ear, air, igh, dge, tch.
Split digraph (Best friend)	(Previously called magic e): two letters, which work as a pair to make one sound, but are separated within the word e.g. a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e. For example cake or pine.
Pure sound	Pronouncing each letter sound clearly and distinctly without adding additional sounds to the end e.g. 'f' not 'fuh.'
Green words	Words that can be sounded out e.g. mat, thrash, bait, smile.
Red words	Words that cannot be sounded out and must be learnt e.g. I, said, our, they.