

EYFS/KS1 Phonics Glossary

Introduction to Phonics

The way children are taught to read, write and spell in schools today is called phonics or sometimes 'letters and sounds.' This guide tells you about some of the terms you may hear teachers use when talking about phonics or how your child is making progress in Literacy. There are also some top tips to help your child with phonics at home.

Word	What Does It Mean?
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	<p>Abbreviation used for consonant-vowel-consonant words, used to describe the order of sounds. Some examples of CVC words are: cat, pen, top, chat (because ch makes one sound).</p> <p>Other similar abbreviations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VC words e.g. on, is, it. • CCVC words e.g. trap and black. • CVCC words e.g. milk and fast.
digraph	<p>Two letters which together make one sound e.g. ee, oa, ea, ch, ay.</p> <p>There are different types of digraph:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 e.g. a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e. For example cake or pine.
grapheme	Written letters or a group of letters which represent one single sound (phoneme) e.g. a, l, sh, air, ck.