



Phonics	
Phase	This refers to the stage in the phonics scheme that children are working within. In Year 1, we are working on skills across the phases 3 through to the end of phase 5. In Year 2, we are working within phase 5 and 6. Phase 6 is focused on Spelling.
Phoneme	A sound which makes up all or part of a word. For example, the word 'light' is made up of the phonemes: 'l', 'igh' and 't'.
Grapheme	A letter or string of letters that represents a spoken sound.
Digraph	A sound represented by two letters – for example 'ee' or 'th'.
Trigraph	A sound represented by three letters – for example 'ear' or 'ure'.
Short vowel sound	Phoneme/sounds made by the individual vowels Eg a – hat, e – pet, i – pin, o – hot, u – cut. They make a short sound.
Long vowel sounds	Phoneme/sounds that make a stretchy or long sound containing vowels (EG or, oa, ee)
Split digraph	A digraph that is split by a consonant. Usually represent long vowel sounds 'a-e' (for example, 'cake'), 'i-e' (five), 'o-e' (code) and 'u-e' (rule).
Sound buttons	Dots and lines drawn below the graphemes (letters) in a word to help the child to recognise the phonemes (sounds). A dot represents a single letter that makes a sound and a line represents a digraph or trigraph (group of letters that make a sound) EG <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>
Freddie Fingers	We sound out the words using one finger to represent each sound when we are spelling to help us hear the order of the sounds in a word. Freddie is a frog who helps us sound out! <div style="text-align: right;"> </div>
Blend	When two or more consonants are blended together, but each sound may be heard in the blend. The most common beginning consonant blends include: bl, br, cl, cr, dr, fr, tr, fl, gl, gr, pl, pr, sl, sm, sp and st.
Syllable	A sequence of speech sounds in a word. The number of syllables in a word sounds like the 'beats' in the word, and breaking a word into syllables can help with spelling. One-syllable words include words such as, 'dog', 'cat', 'walk' and 'bath'; two-syllable words include, 'teacher' and 'Christmas'; three-syllable words include, 'beautiful', 'manager'.
Common Exception Word	A word which does not follow the common phonetic spelling rules of the language, or where the usual rules act in an unusual way. Children have a list of these words which they are expected to learn by the end of each year in primary school. We also call them tricky words and we explain to children that we cannot sound them out as there are tricky parts in the word. EG the, said.
Homophone	Words that sound the same but have different meanings. Some have different spellings and meanings but sound the same - for example, 'there/their/they're'; some are spelt the same but have different meanings - for example, 'fair' ('Let's go to the fair!/'That's not fair').