

## Phonics Vocabulary

### **Phoneme**

A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound in a word. Feel/watch how your mouth changes when you say a word, every time your mouth moves/changes shape you are saying a new phoneme, e.g. b-r-i-ck

There are 44 phonemes in the English language

### **Grapheme**

Graphemes represent how a phoneme is spelt. Each grapheme is a unit of sound regardless of how many letters there are. e.g. The word b-r-igh-t is made up of 4 phonemes; the igh phoneme is represented by 3 letters but only makes one phoneme.

A grapheme can represent more than one phoneme e.g. C = cat and city

### **Diagraph**

Two letters, which makes 1 phoneme. e.g. duck

A consonant diagraph contains 2 consonants

e.g. sh ck th ll

A vowel diagraph contains at least one vowel

e.g. ai ee ar oy

### **Split Diagraph**

A diagraph in which the two letters are not adjacent e.g. make – ‘a-e’ is a unit of sound (diagraph)- it is being ‘split’ by the constant k.

### **Trigraph**

Three letters, which make 1 phoneme. e.g. light.

### **Oral blending**

Hearing a series of spoken phonemes and merging them together to make a spoken word without corresponding to any graphemes e.g. teacher says “d-o-g” children say “dog”.

### **Blending (links to reading)**

When reading, recognising the letter sounds in a written word and merging them together in the order they are written to pronounce the word.

e.g. c-a-t = cat

### **Segmenting (links to writing)**

Identifying the individual phonemes in a spoken word and writing them down to form a word.