

Phonics Glossary

Grammar term	What does it mean?
Grapheme	A written symbol that represents a sound. This can be a single letter or a sequence of letters.
Phoneme	Phoneme The smallest unit of speech. The word 'hat' has three phonemes 'h' 'a' 't'.
Special Friends - Diagraph	Diagraph Two letters that, when together, make a sound. sh ch th
Special Friends - Trigraph	Trigraph Three letters that, when together, make a sound. 'igh'
Speed sounds	Sounds children know, presented to them on flashcards at speed to read.
Green words	Words that contain only sounds the children have been taught. This means they can Fred talk the word and blend it to read. There are different sets of green words.
Fred talk	Fred the green frog who can only speak in sounds. The children hear the sounds, repeat and blend the sounds to read the word. We use Fred talk when spelling words.

Blend Blending	Say each sound. Continue to repeat the sounds at a quicker pace until we put all the sound together to say the complete word.
Fred fingers Segment Segmenting	Fred fingers We use Fred fingers to segment a word to be able to write it. Each finger represents a sound. We press each finger when we break up the word into sounds. s-u-n
Red words	These are the tricky words that cannot be sounded out with Fred talk because they do not follow the spelling rules. 'the' 'all'
Alien words	Words that are not realy words but allow the children to practise Fred talk and blend. 'zig' 'fighp'
Pure sounds	When you say the true sound the letter makes without putting 'uk' at the end. 'mmmmmmmm' not 'muh'
Fluency	We say a child who reads with fluency is someone who can read aloud at a pace that flows. They are not needing to stop and Fred talk words. (This supports comprehension.)