

Phonics and Early Reading Terminology

Here is a guide to help you with some of the phonics terminology which your child is learning!

Phonemes	the smallest unit of sound – for example ‘c’
Graphemes	the individual letters or groups of letters that represent individual sounds
Pure Sounds	saying sounds in their purest form – it is really important that you are supporting children by modelling saying the sounds correctly https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TkXcabDUg7Q
Bouncy Sounds	short sounds which you bounce to say e.g. t-t-t-t-tower
Stretch Sounds	long sounds which you stretch to say e.g. mmmmmmmountain
Special Friends	a combination of two (or more) letters which represent one sound e.g. sh
Green Words	these are words which can be decoded we encourage children to “special friend, Fred talk, read the word”
Red Words	there are some words which don’t follow the rules, we call these ‘red words’ and the children will learn to read these words by sight
Alien Words	these ‘pseudo’ words are used in Year One as part of the Phonics Screen Check and are used to assess whether the children have got a good sound knowledge
Fred Talk	children are taught to use “Fred Talk” to segment (say the sounds in words) before blending (read the word)
Fred Fingers	children are asked to work out how many sounds in a word and show their “Fred Fingers” these support the children in spelling words
Fred in your Head	children progress to using “Fred in their Head” before then reading it
Speedy Read	children read the words quickly, by sight
Storytellers Voice	children read each storybook three times, this is to develop their accuracy (actual reading of the words), fluency (speed) and then building expression in their reading using a “storytellers voice”