Phonics glossary 

**blend** (vb) — to draw individual sounds together to pronounce a word, e.g. s-n-a-p, blended together, reads snap

**cluster** — two (or three) letters making two (or three) sounds, e.g. the first three letters of 'straight' are a consonant cluster

**digraph** — two letters making one sound, e.g. sh, ch, th, ph

**vowel digraphs** comprise of two vowels which, together, make one sound, e.g. ai, oo, ow

**split digraph** — two letters, split, making one sound, e.g. a-e as in make or i-e in site

**grapheme** — a letter or a group of letters representing one sound, e.g. sh, ch, igh, ough (as in 'though')

**grapheme-phoneme correspondence** (GPC) — the relationship between sounds and the letters which represent those sounds; also known as 'letter-sound correspondences'

**mnemonic —** a device for memorising and recalling something, such as a snake shaped like the letter 'S'

**phoneme** — the smallest single identifiable sound, e.g. the letters 'sh' represent just one sound, but 'sp' represents two (/s/ and /p/)

**segment** (vb) — to split up a word into its individual phonemes in order to spell it, e.g. the word 'cat' has three phonemes: /c/, /a/, /t/

**VC, CVC, CCVC** — the abbreviations for vowel-consonant, consonant-vowel-consonant, consonant-consonant-vowel-consonant, which are used to describe the order of letters in words, e.g. am, ham, slam

Useful phonics websites/quality phonics resources

If you would like to help your child with phonics you can visit these websites - [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/) or [www.letters-and-sounds.com](http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/) - which helps their learning in a fun way!

[www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk) Oxford Owl is an award-winning free website packed with expert advice, top tips, eBooks and activities to help
you support your child's reading at home.

[www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk) (subscription fee required for parts of the website)

[www.educationcity.com](http://www.educationcity.com) (subscription required but free trial available)

[www.lettersandsounds.com](http://www.lettersandsounds.com)

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/phonics/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/phonics/)

[www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize/literacy/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize/literacy/)

[www.free-phonics-worksheets.com](http://www.free-phonics-worksheets.com/)

[www.firstschoolyears.com](http://www.firstschoolyears.com/)

<http://jollylearning.co.uk/> (to purchase phonics resources/readers)

<http://www.jellyandbean.co.uk/> (decodable readers)