**Key Vocabulary**

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| **Correct** vocabulary needs to be modelled with the children in discrete Phonics sessions. It should be referred to in all curriculum areas. | |
| Speech sounds are called **phonemes**. These are the smallest units of sounds within words.  The letters, or groups of letters which represent phonemes, are called **graphemes**.  There is always the same number of graphemes in a word as phonemes. | |
| Segmenting and blending are reversible phonic skills. | |
| **Segmenting** | Breaking up words into their individual sounds so that we can spell a word |
| **Blending** | Putting individual sounds together so that we can read a word |
| **Decoding** | This is needed for reading. It is the opposite of encoding.   1. Read each grapheme and CHOP UP the possible phonemes 2. BLEND each sound to make up the word |
| **Encoding** | This is needed for spelling. It is the opposite of decoding.   1. STRETCH out the word and hear all of the sounds 2. CHOP UP the letter sounds and select suitable graphemes 3. BLEND together |
| **Grapheme-phoneme correspondences (GPCs)** | We convert graphemes to phonemes when we are reading and phonemes to graphemes when we are spelling. To do this, children need to learn which graphemes correspond to which phonemes and vice versa. |
| **CVC words** | Words that consist of a consonant-vowel-consonant (c-a-t and b-i-g). |
| **Consonant digraph** | A phoneme that is made up of two graphemes, the first of which is a consonant (/w/ as ‘wh’ and /ng/). |
| **Vowel digraph** | A phoneme that is made up of two graphemes, the first of which is a vowel (/ai/ and /ee/). |
| **Digraphs, trigraphs and four letter graphemes** | A digraph is a two letter grapheme. Two letters represent one phoneme (/sh/ in ship).  A trigraph is a three letter grapheme. Three letters represent one phoneme (/igh/ in night).  A four letter grapheme uses four letters to represent one phoneme (/ai/ as ‘eigh’ in eight). |
| **Split digraphs** | A split digraph has a letter that splits, i.e. comes between, the two letters in the digraph (/ai/ as ‘a\_e’ in make). |
| **Schwa** | A schwa is a very short neutral vowel sound. It is a bit like a grunt (“uh”). It mostly occurs in unstressed syllables in words of more than one syllable (corner, pillar and cupboard). |