# Phonics Glossary

## Blending

The process of putting individual sounds (phonemes) together e.g. c-a-t = cat and   sh-i-p = ship to make whole words.

## Segmenting

The process of breaking words into their separate sounds (phonemes) i.e. crisp = c-r-i-s-p

## Grapheme

The written form of a sound (phoneme) e.g. the sound ai, can be written as 'ai', 'ay', a-e and eigh.  These are 'different' graphemes.

## Phoneme

A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound in a word; it is a term that children need to learn. At the beginning of your synthetic phonics programme it will be represented by one letter; later on it may be represented by two, three or even four letters. For example /s/ is introduced as being represented by 's', then 'ss' and eventually 'ce' as in 'ice.

## Digraph

A digraph is a two-letter grapheme that represents one sound (phoneme). For example /sh/ represents one phoneme in 'shop' and the vowel digraph /oa/ represents one phoneme in 'boat'. Two letters come together to represent a new phoneme.

## Trigraph

As for digraph, but represented by three letters, for example 'igh' in 'light.

## Split digraph

Where two letters are not adjacent e.g i-e as in bike, o-e as in phone