**Phonics glossary**

* **Phoneme-** the smallest single identifiable sound, e.g. the letters 'sh' represent just one sound, but 'sp' represents two (/s/ and /p/).
* **Grapheme—** a letter or a group of letters representing one sound, e.g. sh, ch, igh
* **Digraph** — two letters making one sound, e.g. sh, ch, th.
* **Trigraph –** three letters making one sound, e.g. air, igh
* **Segment**— 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/
* **Blend—** to draw individual sounds together to pronounce a word, e.g. s-n-a-p, blended together, reads snap. In Reception we use ‘Phonics gum’ putting the whole word in our mouth, stretching it to hear each individual sound and then popping it to blend them together.
* **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.

