# Letters and Sounds

## The Primary National Strategy is available online.

| Phase | Phonic Knowledge and Skills |
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| *Phase One*(Nursery/Reception) | Activities are divided into seven aspects, including environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body sounds, rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and finally oral blending and segmenting. |
| *Phase Two* | Learning 19 letters of the alphabet and one sound for each. Blending sounds together to make words. Segmenting words into their separate sounds. Beginning to read simple captions. |
| *Phase Three* | The remaining 7 letters of the alphabet, one sound for each. Graphemes such as ch, oo, th representing the remaining phonemes not covered by single letters. Reading captions, sentences and questions. On completion of this phase, children will have learnt the "simple code", i.e. one grapheme for each phoneme in the English language. |
| *Phase Four* | No new grapheme-phoneme correspondences are taught in this phase. Children learn to blend and segment longer words with adjacent consonants, e.g. swim, clap, jump. |
| *Phase Five*(Throughout Year 1) | Now we move on to the "complex code". Children learn more graphemes for the phonemes which they already know, plus different ways of pronouncing the graphemes they already know. |
| *Phase Six*(Throughout Year 2 and beyond) | Working on spelling, including prefixes and suffixes, doubling and dropping letters etc. |

## 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.