



# Egerton Church of England Primary School

*Together, we inspire, nurture and thrive*

## Parent's guide to terminology

**Phoneme** – the smallest unit of sound in speech. E.g. the word 'hat' has 3 phonemes – 'h' 'a' 't'.

**Grapheme** – a grapheme is a letter or a number of letters that represent the sounds in our speech. We use the names of the letters to identify the graphemes.

**Digraph** – a digraph is a two-letter grapheme that makes one sound 'ch' and 'sh' are digraphs.

**Trigraph** – a trigraph is a three-letter grapheme that makes one sound. 'igh' is a trigraph.

**Split digraph** – we used to call a split digraph the magic 'e' sound. We no longer use the words magic 'e' to describe a split digraph. When a digraph has been split by a consonant it becomes a split digraph. The word 'make' contains a split digraph. The 'a' and 'e' have been split by the consonant 'k' so we only make one sound. This becomes a long vowel sound.

**Segmenting** – when we segment a word we break it down into individual sounds. The word 'cat' can be broken down into 3 phonemes 'c' 'a' 't'.

**Blending** – when we blend a word together we combine phonemes to build a word. When we blend the sounds together we can read new words.