

## Language of Phonics

**Consonant letter**—letter used to represent a phoneme produced by an obstruction or altering of air flow through the speech cavities.

**Vowel letter**—letter used to represent a phoneme produced with an unobstructed passage of air through the mouth.

**Consonant blend**—the sound made by two consonants appearing together but each retaining its own sound

**Consonant digraph**—pair of consonants that represent a unique sound

**Vowel digraph**—pair of vowels that represent one vowel sound

**Diphthong**—refers to a speech sound in which the position of the mouth changes or “glides” from one place to another (e.g. oi, oy, ou).

**r-controlled vowel**—vowel that comes before the letter r. The letter r “controls” the sound of the preceding vowel.

**Variant vowels**—various letter groupings that produce a specific vowel sound (a, ai, ay)

**Schwa**—unaccented vowel sound (lazy vowel)

**Phonogram**—series of letters that stand for a sound, syllable, or series of sounds without reference to meaning (word families, eg. -ack, -ist)

**Onset**—refers to the part of the syllable that comes before the vowel (c in cat or pl in plate)

**Rime**—a vowel and any consonants that follow it in a syllable (-at in cat)

**Syllable**— a unit of pronunciation which usually consists of a vowel and one or more consonants before or after it.