



Initial Code: This is the code that is taught during EYFS. It teaches children the single letter vowel sounds, consonants and some consonant digraphs.

Extended Code: This is the code that is taught during Year 1 and Year 2. Children will learn that the same sound can be spelt in a number of different ways. For example, the /ow/ sound can be spelt as both 'ow', like in 'cow', or as 'ou', like in 'cloud'. Many of these spellings will be **digraphs**.

Digraphs: A digraph is two letters representing one sound, such as the /ae/ sound being represented by **ay** in 'play'.

"One letter, one sound": We use this expression within school to refer to sounds that are represented by only one letter, such as the /ae/ sound in 'apron'.

"Two letters, one sound": We use this expression within school to refer to **digraphs** – two letters representing one sound.

"Three letters, one sound": We use this expression within school to refer to three letters representing one sound such as the /air/ sound in the word 'fair' being represented by the letters 'air'.

"Four letters, one sound": We use this expression within school to refer to four letters representing one sound such as the /ae/ sound in the word 'eight' being represented by the letters 'eigh'.

"Say the sounds, read the word": This is the expression we use to prompt children to first decode the word by saying the individual sounds and then blend them to read a word. You may have previously prompted children by asking them to "sound out" the word.

Decoding: Decoding refers to the process of reading a word. Children have to recognise the graphemes (letters) and recall the phonemes (sounds) that they match up to.

Grapheme: A grapheme is a letter used to represent a sound, such as 'm' in 'mat' representing the "mmm" sound.

Phoneme: A sound, such as the "mmm" in "mat".

Pure sounds: Pure sound in phonics is the pronunciation of each letter sound clearly and distinctly without adding additional sounds to the end. For example, the first sound in 'mat' should not be pronounced "muh" as this would actually be a 'm' and an 'u'. Instead, it should be pronounced "mmm".