Glossary of Terms

Adjectives

are describing words, they give a more exact meaning to a noun

Adverbs

words that give more exact meaning to other words. Adverbs modify verbs,

adjectives and other adverbs.

Digraph

two letters used together to spell a single sound

Nouns

name of a person, place or thing. There are two kinds of nouns, common and

proper.

Proper nouns name particular people, places or things so they must have a

capital letter.

Common nouns are not capitalised, they can be

• abstract: naming qualities actions or ideas like courage, loyalty, kindness

• concrete: naming materials we can see or touch like bike, window, house

• collective: naming a group of persons or things like class, team, flock, litter

Phonetic

having to do with speech sounds, indicating pronunciation

Phonics

simplified phonetics for teaching reading/spelling skills

Prefix

a syllable, syllables or a word put at the beginning of a word to change its

meaning or to form a new word.

Pronouns

are substitutes, they take the place of nouns in speech and writing e.g. her,

him, he, she, his, hers, it, they, them, you, I, we, us

Root Word

the essential part of a word from which other words are derived

Suffix

an addition made at the end of a word to form another word of different

meaning or function

Syllable

a word or part of a word pronounced as a unit, usually consisting of a vowel

alone or with one or more consonants

The Nym family

Antonym

a word that means the opposite of another word

Synonym

a word that means the same or has a similar meaning to a word in the same

language

Homonym

one of two or more words that are identical in pronunciation or spelling but

have a different meaning (sale/sail).

Homographs

a word of the same spelling as another, but a different origin and meaning

(bank/bank).

Homophone

having the same sound, the letters 'c' and 'k' are homophones in 'cork'; another

word for homonym.

Trigraph

three letters used together to spell a single sound

Verb

a word that describes an action or a state of being