Glossary of terms used in spelling programmes

affix	A morpheme which is not in itself a word, but is attached to a word. An affix can be a prefix (*intolerant, dislike*) or a suffix (*kindness, playing*)
grapheme	Written representation of a sound; may consist of one or more letters: for example the phoneme *s* can be represented by the graphemes *s, se, c, sc* and *ce* as in *sun, mouse, city ,science*
homograph	Words which have the same spelling as another, but a different meaning; *the calf was eating/my calf was aching*. Pronunciation may be different: *a lead pencil/my dog's lead*
homophone	Words which have the same sound as another but a different meaning or different spelling: *read/reed; pair/pear; right/write/rite*
mnemonic	A device to aid memory, for instance to learn particular spelling patterns or spellings: *There is a rat in separate*
morpheme	The smallest unit of meaning. A word may consist of one morpheme (*house)*, two morphemes (*house/s; hous/ing*) or three or more morphemes (*house/keep/ing; un/happi/ness*). Suffixes and prefixes are morphemes.
phoneme	A phoneme is the smallest contrastive unit of sound in a word. There are approximately 44 phonemes in the English language. A phoneme may have variant pronunciations in different positions: for example, the first and last sounds in the word "little" are variants of the phoneme */l/*. A phoneme may be represented by one, two, three or four letters. The following words end in the same phoneme (with the corresponding letters underlined): *to, shoe, through*
phonological	Awareness of sounds within words – demonstrated for example in the ability to generate rhyme and alliteration and in segmenting and blending component sounds.
prefix	A prefix is a morpheme which can be added to the beginning of a word to change its meaning. For example *inedible, disappear, supermarket, unintentional*
segment	To break a word or part of a word down into its component phonemes. For example, in *c-a-t; ch-a-t; ch-ar-t; g-r-o-u-n-d; s-k-i-n.*
spelling log	A personal, ongoing record of words which are being learnt. Pupils would decide, with the teacher's guidance, words to be learnt.
suffix	A suffix is a morpheme which is added to the end of a word.
synonym	Words which have the same meaning as another word, or very similar: *wet/damp.* Avoids overuse of any words and adds variety.
trigraph	Three letters representing one phoneme: *high; fudge*