



Kenthurst Public School

Reporting Key Terms

Literacy and Numeracy

Please see below an alphabetical list of key terms that you may come across in your child's school report. If you require further clarification of any terminology used, please phone the school office to arrange an appointment with your child's teacher. This list has been adapted and taken from the DoE Curriculum glossary.

Term/s	Meaning
Adjective	A word class that describes, identifies or quantifies a noun or a pronoun.
Adverb	A word that tells something about a verb, adjective or another adverb. Indicates things like manner, place or time.
Analyse	Identify components and the relationship between them; draw out and relate implications.
Angle	Formed by 2 straight lines meeting at a common endpoint, called the vertex. An angle can describe the amount of turn between its 2 arms (lines).
Array	An array is one of several different arrangements that can be used to model multiplicative situations involving whole numbers. It is made by arranging a set of objects, such as counters, into columns and rows. Each column must contain the same number of objects as the other columns, and each row must contain the same number of objects as the other rows.
Automaticity	The fast, accurate and effortless word recognition that comes with practice.
Background Knowledge	Information that is important for understanding a subject.
Blend	The act of synthesising phonemes smoothly from left to right, to read words.
Capacity	Generally refers to the amount a container can hold.
Clause	A main clause (also known as principal or independent clause) is a clause that can stand alone as a complete sentence. A dependent clause (also known as subordinate clause) is a group of words that cannot stand alone as a sentence.
Cohesive Devices	Words or phrases that indicate a relationship with other words, phrases, clauses or paragraphs across a text.
Comprehension	The ability to understand something.
Commutative Property	Commutative property of addition or multiplication means that two numbers can be added or multiplied in any order and the solution will be the same.
Coordinating Conjunction	A word or group of words that function to link two independent clauses within a sentence.
CVC Words	Words formed by a consonant-vowel-consonant.
Decodable Text	Texts that are made up of grapheme-phoneme (letter-sound) correspondences that students have learnt. These texts are used by beginning readers to practise segmenting and blending skills to read words, quickly and effortlessly.
Decode	A process of efficient word recognition in which readers use knowledge of the relationship between letters (graphemes) and sounds (phonemes) to work out how to say and read written words.

Diagraph	Two graphemes used to represent one phoneme. Examples include: consonant digraphs – sh, ck, th split digraphs – a-e, i-e, o-e and vowel digraphs – ee, oo, ea.
Encode	Spell words in their visible written form.
Equal Arm Balance	A balance where the distance from the support point (middle) to the arms at each end is equal.
Equivalent	Two things are equivalent if they have the same value.
Figurative language	Word groups/phrases used differently from the expected or everyday usage to express an idea in a non-literal way for a particular effect.
Fluency	Reading, speaking, encoding (sounding out the sounds in words) and spelling with appropriate pace and accuracy.
Forming groups	Taking a quantity and placing it into groups of a given amount. Example – make 3 groups of 5 counters.
Grammar	A description of a language's system, in regard to both structure (form) and meaning (function), at the level of a word, sentence and/or text.
Grapheme	The smallest unit of writing used to represent one phoneme. A letter or combination of letters corresponding to or representing a single phoneme. Examples include: the f in frog, the ph in phone
Inference	A conclusion reached on the basis of evidence and reasoning.
Inferencing	Local inferencing requires the reader to comprehend implied information from within relatively small sections of text, such as 2 adjacent sentences.
Intonation	The pattern or melody of pitch changes in connected speech, especially the pitch pattern of a sentence.
Inverse operation	The operation that reverses the effect of another operation. Example: Addition and subtraction are inverse operations. When you add 3 to 7 you get 10. If you then subtract 3, you get back to 7.
Jump strategy	A mental calculation method that involves jumping from one number (usually the largest number) either forwards (addition) or backwards (subtraction) to the solution.
Length	Measure of an object from end to end.
Mass	The amount of matter in an object.
Modality	Aspects of language that suggest a particular perspective on subjects and/or events. Modality forms a continuum from high modality (always, must) to low modality (might, could).
Oral Language	A system through which spoken words can be used to express, receive and understand information, ideas and feelings.
Phoneme/s	The smallest unit of speech sound. Examples include: Cat has 3 phonemes: c/a/t Truck has 4 phonemes: t/r/u/ck.
Phonological Awareness	The ability to hear, identify and say the separate parts of words (syllables, onsets, rimes and phonemes).
Phonic Knowledge	A persons knowledge of sounds (how many sounds they can read/say/write).
Place value system	The place value system has 4 properties: positional, base-ten, additive and multiplicative. The value of a digit is determined by its position in a number relative to the ones (or units) place. For example: in the number 924, the 4 denotes 4 ones.
Print Conventions	Accepted practices or features that help define textual forms and meaning (reading left to right, holding a book up the right way).
Representing	Showing in different ways.

Combining quantities	Joining two separate amounts to form a new amount.
Sentence Types	Simple - A complete message that contains a subject and predicate, forming a single independent clause. Compound - A sentence comprising 2 or more independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction. Complex - Formed by adding one or more dependent (subordinate) clauses to a main (independent) clause using subordinating conjunctions and/or relative pronouns.
Separating quantities	Splitting a whole amount into two or more smaller amounts.
Tense	The form of the verb that indicates when something is happening in relation to the speaker's time: past, present or future. Examples include: I ate bananas (past). I am eating bananas (present). I will eat bananas (future).
Volume	The amount of space occupied by an object.