

Dear Family:

This is a wonderful year of learning for your child. The help and support you have given are making a big difference.

We shall continue to work with short vowel words, however, we are now ready to add **consonant blends**.

A blend is two consonants together that each make a sound, as in the word "**s t o p**" - the /s/ and the /t/ each make a sound.

A blend is different from a digraph which has two letters but only one sound, such as in the word "**shop**" - the /sh/ makes only one sound.

Blends can come at the beginning of a word, such as "**s t o p**", or at the end of a word, like "**p e s t**."

Your child will learn a digraph blend. A digraph blend is a digraph blended with another consonant such as **n** and **ch** in the word **lunch**, or **sh** and **r** in the word **shred**.

I will also introduce the keywords and sounds for r-controlled vowels using an R-Controlled Vowels Poster. R-controlled vowel sounds are **ar** (as in "**car**"), **or**, **er**, **ir**, and **ur**. At this time, these sounds are introduced for reference when students are reading throughout the day. These sounds will be learned in more depth for both reading and spelling in Level 2. In the meantime, we will practice the sounds during our Drills Sounds/Warm Up activity in class.

Here we go!

Sincerely,

