Glossary of Terms: Year 1

These are words your child uses and hears when talking about their reading and writing. Please use this glossary of terms to support learning at home when reading and writing and encourage your child to identify different types of words and punctuation. This is taken from the year group expectations set out in the National Curriculum.

Term	Meaning	Example
Full stop	A punctuation mark to indicate the end of a	I like playing at the park.
	sentence.	
Capital letter	A letter of the alphabet that differs from its	ABC
	corresponding lowercase letter in form and	
	height.	
Verb	A word which describes the action in a sentence.	Peter was running towards the finish line.
		Jennifer skipped around the garden.
Noun	A word which is a person, place or thing.	woman, park, apple
Adjective	A word that describes a noun.	the red squirrel, the tall giraffe
Prefix	Letters that can be added to the beginning of the	kind – un kind
	word which change the meaning of verbs and	tie – un tie
	adjectives.	
Suffix	Letters that can be added to the end of the word	help – help er , help ing , help ed
	which change the meaning of verbs.	(at this level, we look at words where no change
		is needed to the root word)
Fragment	Fragments are incomplete sentences. Usually,	when it's raining
	fragments are pieces of sentences that have	the blue alien
	become disconnected from the main clause.	

Sentence	A group of words that has at least a subject and a main verb to state a complete thought. Sentences must also begin with a capital letter and end with a full stop.	I take an umbrella with me when it's raining. The blue alien smiled and waved.
Singular	Referring to just one person or thing.	a sweet, a pen, a fox
Plural	Referring to two or more things.	two sweets, five pens, seven foxes (if the word ends in 'sh' 'tch' 'ss' 'zz' 'x' - 'es' must be added)
Proper noun	Names and places that need to start with a capital letter.	Colchester, London, Ben, Anne, Highwoods Community Primary School
Question mark	A punctuation mark indicating a question.	Where do you live? What is your name?
Exclamation mark	A punctuation mark indicating an exclamation or that something is shocking or funny.	Be careful! Look out!