

## Phonics and reading in the Early Years and Key Stage 1

Reading is a key priority at Broomfield School and begins as soon as the children enter the school in the Early Years. The first half term in the Early Years is dedicated to developing a love of reading and positive reading habits. Phonics teaching builds up swiftly over this initial half term to enable children to start taking home their own reading books (and to be successful at this) after October half term.

Phonics teaching follows the progression in *Letters and Sounds*, with resources and approaches drawn from a wealth of engaging teaching resources and methods. As children progress through the phonics phases of learning, they will link reading phonemes to the spelling of graphemes, so that when they enter Year 2 as confident readers, focus can be shifted onto spelling patterns in readiness for Key Stage 2.

In addition to phonics, sight words play a key part in children's learning to read and your child may be asked to learn specific words by heart at home in addition to their weekly reading.

Reading books are sent home from the second half term of the Early Years to consolidate children's reading skills and to develop a love of reading. We recommend trying to hear your child read daily – practice really does make perfect! Talking about characters and what is happening in the book will really help your child to develop. Your child's teacher can talk to you about the best ways to do this. Where it is not possible to read daily at home, a minimum of 3 times a week will best support your child.

In school, children are heard read regularly and receive daily instruction in reading in the form of phonics sessions and weekly guided reading groups.