



Birches First School

Believe, Grow, Succeed...To be the best me I can be.

14th October 2022

Dear Parents,

Our aim is to always include parents and carers with our children's phonic learning at Birches. As you are aware, as a school we are using the "Little Wandle" scheme to teach phonics to our children as part of their Early Reading skills. Each day, your child in Reception is accessing a carefully planned phonics session. Through this interactive phonics session, children are introduced to the sounds that letters make and are taught how to say the sound and how to form the letter onto paper. They are exposed to various words with the sound they are taught and are encouraged to slowly make the link between blending sounds together to form words. Home learning for the sounds will be available on the website by the end of this half term, to complete at a time suitable for you.

As the children are now becoming more confident and attempting to blend letters to make words, I would like to take this opportunity to explain to you all about the teaching of early reading at Birches First School. Early reading simply means the stage of reading where children are learning to become fluent readers using their phonics. You will start to notice that in the coming weeks, children will be bringing home two different books to share with you all. A reading practice book (phonics book) which is suitably matched to the phonics your child is learning in school and a library book (sharing book) from our school Library.

The reading practice book that your child is bringing home will be at the correct phonic stage for them. They should be able to read this book both fluently and independently. This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please do not worry! Your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in their reading. Listen to them read the book and remember to give lots of praise! If they are finding it tricky to read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together and please make a comment on BoomReader. Children will be changing their book weekly.

The library book (sharing book) is to encourage reading for pleasure. The desire to read will help with the skill of reading. To foster this love of reading, each week your child will bring home a library book which they have chosen themselves. The books offer a wealth of opportunity for talking about both the pictures and story. Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun and develop a love of reading! Please as with the reading book comment on BoomReader so we can see whether your child has enjoyed their chosen book and we can discuss the story with them in school also.

As always, we would like to thank you for your continued support in helping your child's phonics journey here at Birches First School. If you have any additional questions regarding how to support your child, please do get in touch.

Kind regards,

Mrs Kandola
English Lead