

## **Phonics at Bearwood Primary and Nursery School**

Phonics is the key strategy taught to enable children to read the words that they see quickly and skilfully and to support the words they write, particularly in the early stages of literacy. We follow the 'Letters and sounds' programme, beginning in the Nursery and through to Year 2. By developing sound skills in phonics, children will be confident to tackle new words in reading and writing.

Children from Nursery to Year 2 will experience structured phonics teaching daily and from Year 3 onwards children who are not yet confident will receive phonics teaching in small groups as appropriate. Phonics teaching will include whole class, small group work and practical activities and application.

First experience of phonics is building awareness of sounds, both letter sounds and sounds in the environment, rhyme and rhythm. Children then learn the sounds that individual letters make and listen for them in different positions in the word. They practice building consonant- vowel - consonant words such as c-a-t or r-u-g and learn the sounds that different combinations of sounds make such as sh and ow. They learn how to blend sounds and segment words for reading and writing, and the correct terms such as phoneme and digraph.

During year 1, work from the Early Years Foundation Stage is built upon, making sure that pupils can sound and blend unfamiliar printed words quickly and accurately using the phonic knowledge and skills that they have already learnt. Pupils also continue to learn new grapheme-phoneme correspondences and revise and consolidate those learnt earlier.

During year 2, pupils are taught to read all common graphemes and to read unfamiliar words containing these graphemes, accurately and without undue hesitation. Pupils also focus on establishing accurate and speedy word reading skills.

Children's phonic skills are tested formally at the end of year 1 and again at the end of year 2 for pupils who do not make the necessary level at the end of year 1. The test assesses children's ability to decode unfamiliar words alongside their ability to discriminate real words from nonsense ones.

At Bearwood Primary and Nursery we value phonic skills as the key to making the best start with literacy and as such we are enhancing children's reading experiences with books that are matched to the development of phonic skills, and they regularly take home books to practise the reading skills they have been taught.