



# Broadhempston Primary School

Broadhempston Village, Totnes, Devon. TQ9 6BL

Tel: 01803 812689

Email: [adminbroadhempston@thelink.academy](mailto:adminbroadhempston@thelink.academy)



Dear Parents,

17<sup>th</sup> January 2022

## Changes to home reading books for Reception and KS1

You may have noticed some changes in what we are doing with reading. I thought you would like to know exactly what we are doing and why...

### Why change?

**Fluency in phonics:** national research tells us that children must crack the phonic code in order to read accurately and fluently and be successful in learning throughout their time in school.

Alongside **daily phonics** children will have access to new **reading books that are matched** to their phonic teaching and knowledge.

**Re-reading** these books is vital if children are to secure decoding strategies, internalise them, build a bank of words that can be read automatically and fluently. When the basics are embedded (stored deeply) and automatic (easily retrieved), subsequent learning becomes easier.

Children need to read with accuracy and automaticity to free up their working memory to focus on **comprehension**

### Home reading:

Your child will now bring home two types of books.

#### Decodable books:

- “Decodable” books have been carefully chosen so that your child can work out all the words. These will be linked to the sounds (phonemes) that they have been learning that week in Phonics. As the children progress in Phonics the books will contain an increasing number of previously learned phonemes and “tricky words” (words that are not phonetically decodable such as “the” and “me”).
- Your child should be able to read these books to you by sounding out. When re-reading them a few times at home they should get faster and more fluent with each attempt and may even get to the point where they are not sounding out aloud (they are doing this in their head and just reading the whole word). We ask that your child reads each book at least twice, three times is the optimal.
- **We will send these books home on a Monday each week and they can keep them and re-read them for a week until the following Monday.** By then they will have learnt new phonemes and will be ready for the books from the next set.
- Without this practice at home your child will be missing out on another opportunity to secure their phonics learning into their long-term memory.
- We hope that these books will foster a sense of achievement and satisfaction as the children can put their Phonics learning into practice with a high degree of independence.

#### COMING SOON

- You will also have access to the online Bug Club books which are also linked to the phonemes that your child will have learnt in school. We really recommend that you make use of this online service to help to foster that love of reading.



### Read Together Books:

- The other book will have words your child will not be able to read yet. It is for you to read to your child and talk about together.
- We hope that these books will foster a love of stories and engagement in reading.
- Re-reading these books to your child will provide opportunities for discussion and for your child to think about and understand the story. (We often find that reading it straight through the first time and then stopping to discuss the story on the second reading is the best approach.)

- Your child will choose these books themselves from a selection in class. It may be that they pick the same book more than once because it is their favourite. We hope you won't mind going with it if they do this because reading favourite stories over and over again is a powerful way to get your child to love books.
- We will generally remind your child to change these books on a Monday so they will have it for a week but if they want to change their Read Together picture books more frequently, they can do so independently during the week.
- We would also ask that parents enjoy other story times with their children. This helps to build language patterns, vocabulary, the ability to retell stories and above all enjoy them.



**Accelerated™**  
Reader

Once children have completed our programme of Systematic Synthetic Phonics (Phonics Bug) by the end of Year 1/autumn term Year 2 they will be becoming fluent readers. **When they are ready**, they will move on to Accelerated Reader and the system of bringing home books will change. They will be able to choose from a selection of age-appropriate books suitable for their reading ability and will complete quizzes that test their reading comprehension. Accelerated Reader is then used right through the school to Year 6 and often beyond in Secondary Schools. The aim of accelerated reader is to give children guided choice and foster their love of reading and the adventures and knowledge we can find in books.

If you have any questions about this change, please do not hesitate to ask. We will be holding two information meetings about reading where we can explain more about this change.

The meetings will be on:

- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2:45pm Beech Class
- Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2:45 Willow Class

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Jill Ryder, Jenny Potter & Hannah Nicolson

