A yellow emoji with large eyes and a slight smile, wearing black-rimmed glasses. It is holding an open book with a red cover and white pages. The book is held in front of its face, and its hands are visible at the bottom corners of the book.

Early Reading and Writing in EY2.

Mrs Atkins & Mrs Wilson
6th November 2019

What is Phonics?

- Phonics is a method of teaching children about the sounds that make up the words in our language.
- At Broxbourne, we teach phonics by following the 'Letters and Sounds' programme, which consists of 6 phases. Phonics is taught daily in our Early Years and Key Stage One classes.
- Phase 1 started in nursery. Phase 1 involves children learning fundamental skills. These include:
 - ❖ exploring rhythm and rhyme
 - ❖ building listening skills
 - ❖ tuning into sounds around them
 - ❖ identifying initial sounds in words
 - ❖ orally blending and segmenting words.

What is Phonics?

- Elements of phase 1 continue throughout the other 5 phases.
- In EY2, children are taught phases 2 and 3. Some children will also begin phase 4 this year.
- During phase 2 children start to learn what letters look like and the sounds they make. For example, children will learn what the letter 's' looks like and the sound it makes. In phase 3, children begin to learn more complex sounds, made up of 2 or 3 letters, such as 'ch' and 'air'.
- We will now demonstrate how a new sound is taught in EY2. This involves:
 - ❖ Introducing the flashcard
 - ❖ Introducing the action and song
 - ❖ Exploring the 'sound tub' to look for words containing the sound
 - ❖ Modelling how to write the corresponding letter(s)
 - ❖ Blending to read words containing the sound
 - ❖ Segmenting to spell words containing the sound

How do I say the sounds?

- This video can help parents and children practise how to say the sounds-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWQ6MeccRCU>

- This website provides examples of phonic activities and has free books to read online-

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

- 'Mr Thorne' videos on You Tube are also a great way to practise sounds and blending with children.

- This website has a number of free phonic games to play online-

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

How do I say the sounds?

- From now until Easter the children will be learning sounds.
- We will now show you how to pronounce these sounds and the corresponding actions.
- As children learn the sounds they will be introduced to the names of the corresponding letters. Later on in the year and during Year 1 more focus is placed on naming letters correctly and knowing the order of the alphabet. Please do not worry about this too much at present. It is more important for children to recognise the sounds made by letters.

Blending to Read

- Since the end of October, the children have been practising how to blend sounds together to read words. The children 'sound out' the word and then 'push' the sounds together to decode the word.
- To help children recognise the sounds within words, we use flashcards that have 'sound buttons' on. We will now demonstrate how these are used.
- The Oxford Owl website provides further examples of how to 'sound out' and blend in order to decode words.

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/pages/phonics-made-easy>

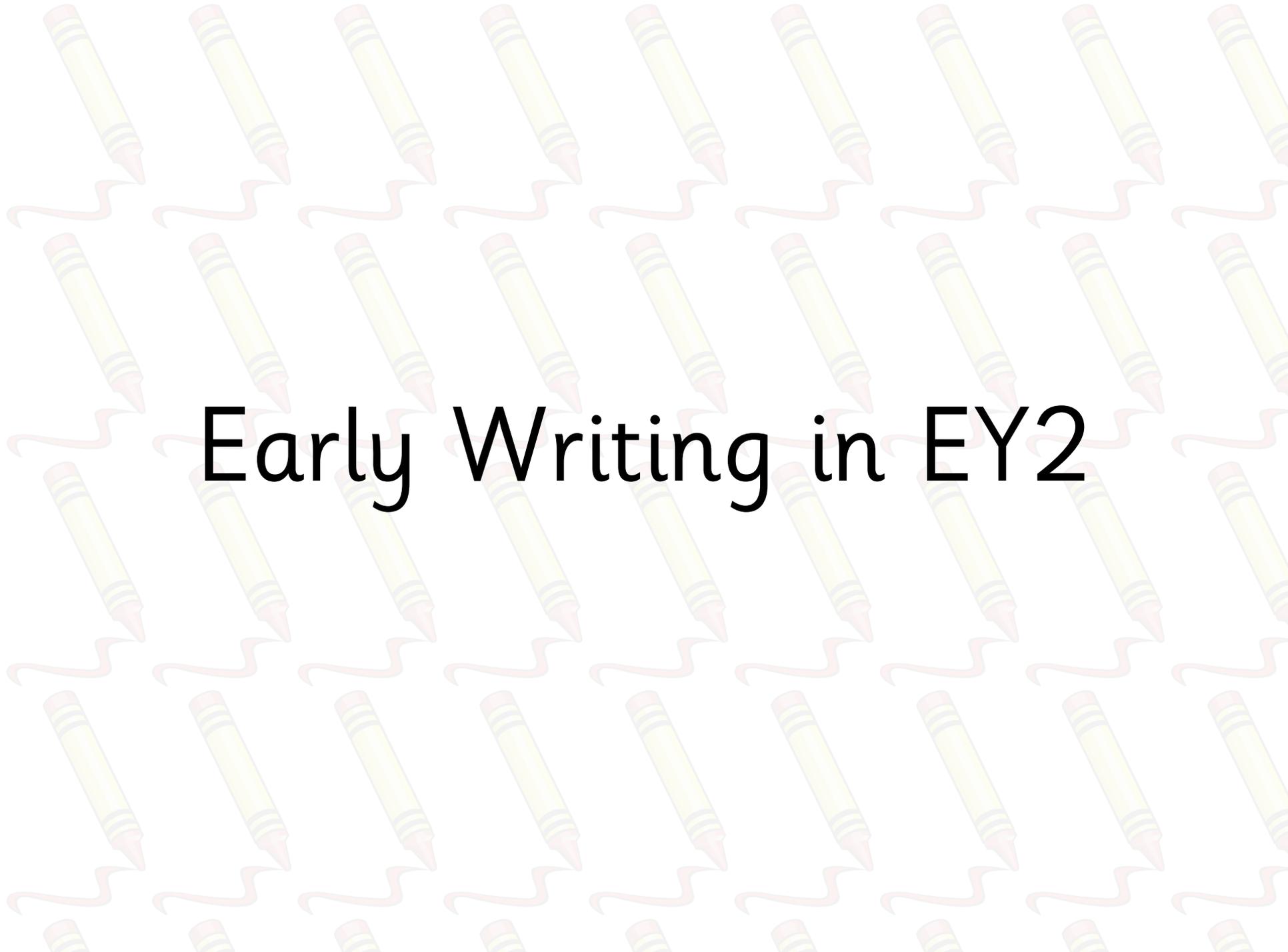
Now it's your turn!

Phonics Reading Books

- The children are gradually being given reading books with words in. Please persevere at home and read daily with your child. Practise really does make perfect!
- The phonics reading books sent home have some helpful exercises to complete on the first page. It is not necessary for children to read an entire book every night. Little and often is best.
- Can you blend to read? Work with another parent to read 'Sid Did It', 'Sid's Pit', 'Kit and Dog' or 'Dig, Sid, Dig'.

Other Reading Books

- From time to time, children will also be given other reading books to bring home. These books focus on the recognition of tricky words- these are common words which need to be recognised on sight and **not** sounded out.
- Songs like this one are a lovely way of practising tricky words:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e2dx65u59aw>
- Today the children will be given a sheet of 10 tricky words to practise at home. During the year they will be learning 60 of these words. Remember that these need to be memorised.
- When reading with your child, don't forget to talk about the book in order to develop comprehension skills.
- Children can be given new reading books on Mondays and Thursdays. Children will only be given a new book if it is clear that they have read their current one. Please initial/sign/comment to show us that your child has read. Please use the reading record to share any concerns you have about your child's reading book or to tell us if you would like them to keep a book for a few more days.
- Reading books that are sent home are designed to consolidate children's learning and allow them to practise their reading skills, without being too challenging. The reading activities that children encounter in school will be more challenging.
- When children read their 'home' reading book to an adult in school, this will be recorded in their reading record. Children will be exposed to a range of reading activities every day in our Phonics and Literacy sessions, allowing them to develop their decoding and comprehension skills. These activities are not recorded in their reading records.



Early Writing in EY2

Segmenting to Spell

- Children also use their phonics skills to support them in their early writing.
- In order to spell unknown words, children are taught to segment or 'chop up' words into sounds.
- We will now demonstrate how this is done using 'robot arms'.
- Phoneme frames are a great tool that we use to support children as they try to spell words. We will now show you how these can be used and give you some examples to take home.
- Let's all have a go! What sounds can you hear in the following words?

Spelling Tricky Words

- As children memorise and read tricky words they should also practise how to write them. This will boost children's confidence in writing as they will suddenly be able to write a number of simple sentences.

I went to the park.

We are in the shop.

Writing Writing Writing!

- During this year the children will be learning to write words, labels, captions, lists and sentences.
- Writing can be a daunting prospect for young children, so please encourage and praise your children in any attempts they make at recording their ideas.
- When the children learn to write sentences, we teach them 3 important things to try to include:
 - ❖ A **capital letter** at the beginning
 - ❖ **Finger spaces** between the words
 - ❖ A **full stop** at the end
- ❖ When children have finished writing a sentence, we ask “**Does it make sense?**” This encourages children to read back and check their writing.

Letter Formation

- At Broxbourne we teach children to write using a set script.
- In EY2, children learn the pre-cursive form shown below.

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

- We will now demonstrate how to form these letters. Please encourage your child to use this script at home.
- A sheet showing the script will be given out today.

A Brief Word About Maths

- This term we are focusing on the numbers to 10 and beyond. Children need to be able to recognise, write and order numbers to 10. When they are secure with numbers to 10, we will move onto the teen numbers. We will give you a sheet showing the correct number formation to take home today.
- Children are also practising the concepts of 'one more' and 'one less'. Again we start with numbers up to 10 and then move onto the higher teen numbers. Number lines are very useful in supporting children to identify 'one more' and 'one less'. We will give you a number line to take home today.

We will be holding another workshop next term to explain how the children's reading/writing/maths will progress during the rest of the year.

Any Questions?