



13th September 2021

Phonics and Home Reading

Dear Parents / Carers,

We wanted to inform you that we have made the decision to update the Phonics scheme that we use to teach early reading. From this September, we will be using the scheme ***Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised*** which has recently been validated by the Government. As part of our new scheme, your child will read a book with an adult in school three times every week.

Although it is our role to teach reading in school, we understand that parents / carers play a vital role too. It is important that children have plenty of practice reading at home in order to become fluent, confident readers. Parents' or carers' support is needed to help their child practise reading and develop fluency with a text they have already read at school. This text needs to be matched to their phonic stage and be fully decodable (this means that your child should be able to sound out the words using their phonic knowledge).

Our new scheme will give you access to our new eBook library (more information on this will be provided very soon), where you will be able to share the same text that has been read in school again at home. If your child is reading with little help, please don't worry that the text is too easy - your child should be able to read the practice text with developing confidence and fluency without any significant help. As a parent / carer, your role is to listen with interest and, most importantly, to encourage and praise, enthusiastically acknowledging your child's achievement (even if, at the early stages, this is only small). After your child has read the book, it may be helpful to talk about the book, but only so far as your child is interested to keep the experience positive and enjoyable. Please note that your child's class teacher may not set a new text every time; it may need to be the same text if your child still needs to develop their fluency in reading that particular text.

We will also send a home / school diary home that we would encourage you to fill out each time you read with your child. Your child's class teacher will also leave a comment with a next step to give you something to focus on when reading the same text again at home.

We would also encourage you to share a story book together at home, it is just as important for children to listen to adults read. You could 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!

Due to the structure and content of Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised we will no longer need to send

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word boxes home.

As always, we will send additional advice on how you can support your child's reading at home throughout the year and we will provide you with your child's log in details to allow you to access the eBook library very soon.

If you have any further questions please see your child's class teacher who will be happy to help.

Kindest Regards,
Mrs Rothery
Assistant Principal

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