



Wednesday 12 January 2022

Dear Parents

Little Wandle Phonics Scheme – Reception and Year 1

I am writing to inform you of details around our new school phonics scheme and changes we are making in terms of our approach to early reading in school which we are taking on board fully for this term.

The scheme is called 'Little Wandle' and has been developed by the publisher Collins. During the course of last academic year, schools were advised that their approach to the teaching of reading must be via an accredited scheme of which this is one. We considered several schemes and our view was that this one would best meet our needs as a school.

Last term we used the scheme for our teaching of phonics in school and we undertook staff training on the implementation of all other elements of the scheme including all the guided reading processes, which are rigorous and require rigorous implementation.

What you can expect to happen at school:

Children will read three times a week in school within a guided group

Each session has a specific focus which are outlined below:

- Decoding – reading and interpreting the phonics to physically read the words
- Prosody – expression, intonation and the effect of punctuation
- Comprehension – understanding the content and being able to answer questions about the text to show understanding

These guided sessions will take place from Monday to Thursday and the child will then bring the book home for a week, to be returned the following Thursday. You will see the annotations in children's reading diaries that they have engaged in a guided reading session.

What we need from you:

It is essential that books are returned every Thursday – we have invested heavily in the resource for school and we will need it to last. This relies on parents making sure that the books come back to us. **Unfortunately, books that are not returned to school will have to be charged on parent pay as they form part the whole scheme and will need replacing.**

It is important to read the book at home daily and comment in the reading diary – this is your opportunity to support your child to rehearse, practise and embed their phonic knowledge, expression and understanding.

Possible queries:

My child is able to read the book at the first attempt – do I still need to read it at home with my child?

This may be the case as the children will have been using the book in guided reading during the course of that school week. Reading at home is for the purpose of embedding the phonics, practising expression and developing understanding of the text. This is an important element of the process.

I am used to having several school books to read at home – can I still have additional books?

Yes – an important part of reading is about reading for pleasure and we have a well-stocked school library. Children will choose library books every Monday to bring home for that week. Again it is important that these are returned to school regularly. The children will not bring home books from other reading schemes.

We would also recommend using the local libraries, which are free to join.

Will my child have an opportunity to read 1:1 in school?

No – however, the children’s groupings are matched by ability so you can be sure that the children will all have good access during their group session. It may be that children some read 1:1 from time to time but this is not a general feature of this approach to the teaching of reading. This is also why it is so important to read together at home.

Our new approach has been well trialled and researched. As a school we have planned well for implementation this term so that children continue to develop in their reading journey. I know you will support us in this. I very much look forward to seeing where this will take us in our systematic teaching of early reading.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Richards

Head of School

