

15th November 2021

New Reading and Phonics Scheme

Dear parents/carers,

As you will be aware from Mr Blakeley's newsletter, we have moved to a new phonics and reading scheme. We have already started teaching the children using the new scheme called 'Little Wandle'. If you haven't already, please follow the link to find out more about 'Little Wandle'. The reading scheme with decodable books will be Collins Big Cat.

www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/

A lot of things will remain the same. The children are already used to having daily phonics sessions. We are actually doing two short sessions a day to help us move them over to the new scheme but this will drop back to one at the end of term.

As the children learn the phase 3 graphemes, they will learn a catchphrase to match the sounds. These become even more important when we start learning alternative spellings for the same grapheme.

e.g. **ur** curl the fur or **er** a bigger digger

As the children learn different spellings, they 'grow the code' and learn to use grapheme charts to help them choose the right spelling. These will be used later in the year.

The biggest change for our teaching is the way we teach tricky words. The new scheme teaches the children to apply their phonics knowledge to tricky words and explains why the word is tricky.

e.g. is. The i is phonetic but the 's' makes a 'z' sound. This is what makes it tricky.

Of. The 'o' is phonetic but the 'f' makes a 'v' sound. This is what makes it tricky. The children are taught which bits of the words are phonetic and which bits are tricky.

The biggest and most exciting change is the reading practice sessions. Children will no longer do individualised reading in class. The children will have 3 reading sessions a week with a teacher, teaching assistant or trained adult. Each reading session will focus on different things.

1. Decoding. The children will look through the tricky words and any new vocabulary and have an opportunity to read the book to decode the words.

2. Prosody. In this session they read the book again but the focus is on building expression and intonation.
3. Comprehension. In this final session the children will learn to answer questions about the text. They will be asked to prove it and explain it and use examples from the text to help back up their answers.

In each session the children will all read the book aloud and the adult will circulate and listen to all of them. This means they get lots of opportunities to practice and build fluency. The same book will then be made available to you as a e-reader. More information will follow once we have access to these.

By the time the children can access the e-reader each week, they should be very fluent and you get the fun task of hearing them read and sharing their success! Please note that books are carefully matched to the assessment criteria provided by 'Little Wandle', as accredited by the 'Department for Education', we must ensure fidelity to the scheme and it's organization, therefore, each child will only work on one book a week.

Each week, your child will bring home a 'real' book to share. These will be picture books/library books. Please take time to enjoy reading these books to your child. Sharing high quality picture books, building your child's knowledge of stories and developing their vocabulary is so valuable.

The 'Little Wandle' scheme advocates that all children learn letters/digraphs together, learning letter formations and developing tricky word knowledge as a whole class group. The scheme has in built intervention to support those children who need to consolidate their learning.

Please use the sounds provided in your child's book bag to create words, encouraging your child to segment and blend. Continue to do this as new sounds are introduced.

As the children meet 'tricky words', these will also be added to your child's pack. We are very excited about the new scheme and the beautiful new books and resources. Please bear with us as we are learning and adapting as we implement these changes.

Thanks for your continued support,

Mrs K Bates

Assistant Head Teacher/SENCo EY&KS1 Mental Health/EYFS Lead



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