

Reading and Phonics in Key Stage One

We have had a number of questions regarding how we teach reading and phonics across school. In the summer term 2021 the government recommended that schools look very carefully at how phonics and reading was taught across school. As a school we worked closely with local experts and staff completed research looking at what would work best for us and why.

The scheme that we went for was Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised. All staff were given training in this program during the inset day in September and during several staff meetings. This program has now been rolled out across school.

We are intending to hold parent sessions to explain how reading is best taught. Had parents been allowed into school we would have done this by now. Due to guidance regarding Covid cases we have put this off until the spring term.

Further information is below as well as on our school website in the curriculum section. Please just pop into school and we are more than happy to answer any questions or queries.

What happens in school?

All children are read with at least twice per week. This is through a very thorough reading session that works to build phonics knowledge, fluency and confidence. The books that the children read, are read several times and link directly with the phonics sounds that they are being taught in class.

You can access the books that the children are reading in school, at home via the online platform.

All children experience a daily reading for pleasure session where they work as a class to enjoy either a new or familiar book.

What about reading books for home?

It is the schools job to teach reading, however parents play a vital role. It is important that children have plenty of practice reading at home in order to become fluent and confident readers.

We need to ensure that reading at home is an enjoyable experience and does not feel like a chore. Because of this, we need to ensure that of reading books sent home at least 95% can be read by the children independently. Due to this we started by sending home books that can be read for pleasure with an adult. As the children learn more and more sounds, we will be able to send home books that are suitable. What we don't want to do is send home books that will make children stop enjoying reading.

If they can read 95% of the book this will build confidence and enjoyment of reading. The book sent home may well be one that they have read several times and should be read several times to develop familiarity and fluency.

Workshops

We are planning workshops for the Spring term. This will involve learning more about how reading and phonics are taught as well as a chance to work with your own child on a fun reading activity.

We are holding these sessions on:

Phonics workshops:

Thursday 13th January 2022 9am, 3:30pm and 5pm

Reading with your child workshops:

Thursday 20th January 2022 9am, 3:30pm and 5pm

<u>New GPC and mnemonic</u>	<u>Formation phrase</u>
s snake 	Under the snake's chin, slide down and round its tail.
a astronaut 	Around the astronaut's helmet and down into space.
t tiger 	From the tiger's nose to its tail, then follow the stripe across the tiger.
p penguin 	Down the penguin's back, up and around its head.

What about writing?

Throughout the whole school the same process is used.

Every letter has a name.

Every letter has a phoneme (sound)

Every letter has a mnemonic (picture)

Every letter has a formation phrase

This all means that the way that we teach reading links directly with writing and letter formation.