



Waterbeach Community Primary School



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Dear Parents/carers,

From September, we have started a new Phonics scheme, '**Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised**' to teach early reading skills in our school. This change will impact the way both Phonics and Reading are taught at school. All changes will have a positive effect on the children's learning and we are very excited to implement this scheme.

Children's progression in Phonics is directly related to their reading ability. The Little Wandle programme has a thorough and consistent approach which interlinks both these skills. The aim is for all children to be working alongside their peers with a similar, secure phonic knowledge.

PHONICS

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be following the scheme as well as children in KS2 who need to secure their phonic understanding to become fluent readers. The children in Reception and Year 1 will have daily phonics sessions, Year 2 will have daily phonics sessions moving to spelling sessions.

The Little Wandle website below gives you information about how you can support phonics at home, how each phoneme is pronounced, how we will be teaching phonics to the children and how you can support your child with the books that will be coming home.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

READING BOOKS TO CELEBRATE AND ENJOY

The scheme promotes a love for reading and this is done by sharing books. Please continue to support us with reading at home by reading with your child daily.

In school, there will be three reading sessions a week. The children will have the same book for each session, with a different focus each time:

- Decoding
- Prosody – reading with rhythm, stress and intonation
- Comprehension

During school time, children will also be exposed through a wide range of books to enjoy and develop their understanding from.

Phonics books – chosen by the class teacher, matched to your child's ability.

We have invested a lot of money into new books which are directly linked with the scheme and will be matched to your child's phonic knowledge. They are completely decodable and following the progression of phonemes taught in the lessons. After their three reading practise sessions in school, the children will bring home the book they have practised reading all week. This means that they should be confident and fluent when reading the book to you at home. This is something to be celebrated!

If they are unsure about a word, help them to sound it out or read it to them and ensure you talk about what it means. Continue to talk about the book throughout to develop your child's comprehension skills. If your child is reading it with limited support, please do not worry that it is too easy – this means it is just right in supporting your child's development of fluency and confidence.



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Reading for pleasure books - chosen by your child to share with you.

In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. They will also be bringing a 'choice/sharing' book home from our library which we ask you to read to your child and share the pleasure of reading a book together. Reading their 'choice/sharing' book also aids the children's language and imagination. This will help them in all aspects of the curriculum. Please do not ask your child to read the sharing book as it will likely be beyond their current reading level. Instead, read it to/with them as this will be a positive, shared reading experience.

When reading with your child, the key to unlocking comprehension and prosody is asking them lots of questions and having beneficial discussions. Questions unlock thinking and discussing the pictures, predicting what might happen next, using different voices for different characters, thinking about character's personalities and relating the books to their own lives are all fantastic ways to work on these skills. Exploring a range of non-fiction texts is also invaluable for the children's knowledge and understanding of the world.

The main aim is to make reading FUN. Remember, children are never too old to be read to!

All books need to be returned to school on Mondays.

PLEASE LOOK AFTER OUR WONDERFUL BOOKS

We ask that you look after the books and encourage your child to handle them carefully. Please do not put water bottles in book bags to avoid any leakages damaging the books. If books are not returned or are damaged we will need to ask parents to pay for a replacement, each book costs around £5. Please, please look after and return the wonderful books so that the children can read and enjoy them.

We are very excited about the new scheme and look forward to this new way of working. We know that it will have enormous benefits for our children in both their confidence and love of reading!

We will be holding a parent workshop in the week commencing 9th October – watch out for more details soon.

Yours sincerely,

Lynsey Ogilvie and Andrew Stafford (Phonics and Early Reading Leaders)