



Dear Parents and Carers,

As a school, we have recently changed over to a new synthetic phonics scheme, as our previous scheme, 'Letters and Sounds' has been discontinued by the Department for Education. After careful consideration of the various schemes available to us, we have chosen to adopt Little Wandle Letters and Sounds revised as our new phonics programme. Little Wandle is a complete systematic synthetic phonics programme (SSP) developed for schools by schools. It is based on the original 'Letters and Sounds' programme, but has been extensively revised to provide a complete teaching programme.

Due to the changes in our new SSP, reading books have also changed slightly for children. Children will now be issued with a numbered book that corresponds to the phonic stage that they are able to read independently. These books are numbered: F, 2,3,4 or 5 and link to the various phonic stages that the children are taught through their learning journey in Reception and Key Stage One. These reading books aim to develop fluency, so children should be able to read around 90% of the book independently through blending the words in their heads. Once children have a good grasp of their phonics, they will then progress to a coloured band.

If you have any other questions or queries regarding your child's reading book, please speak to your child's teacher and they will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have. Further information can also be found on the school website and at <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/>. Below this letter is also some useful information to further support your child in their reading.

Many thanks,

Ian Millership

(English Subject Leader)

Supporting your child with reading

Although your child will be taught to read at school, a parent can have a huge impact on their child's reading journey by continuing practice at home.

There are two types of reading book that your child will bring home:

A reading practice book - This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently.

A sharing book - Your child will not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together.

Reading practice book:

This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level by their teacher. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in their reading.

Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise – celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together. There are questions at the back of each book!

Sharing book:

In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The sharing book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together at home.

Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to or with them. 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!