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We are now a Little Wandle School



Dear Families ,

As I am sure you know, we took the decision last year to change our Phonics Scheme to a DfE approved scheme - even though our existing teaching of phonics was very successful the new scheme brought with it new resources, staff training and reading books which match the teaching stages exactly.

After looking at many schemes we chose **Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised** – which we felt fitted in with our principles and which highly values a great love of reading for pleasure.

This has meant a change to the routines and methods we have previously used and staff have undertaken lots of training over the Summer to prepare them for the new approach. We are now implementing the sessions at the following times ...

Reception -9.10am

Crew 1 – 11.20am

Crew 2 – 9.10am

Good attendance and punctuality is vital – as the scheme moves at a fast pace.

Over the next few weeks staff are going to be getting used to the new routines and systems so we ask that you show patience as we introduce it. We have plans to invite you in to watch a phonics lesson in the next few weeks and we will keep you informed through class pages on Seesaw about any new information.

Supporting your child with reading

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

There are two types of reading book that your child may 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 may not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together.

Reading practice book (soon you will get access to an online reading app where you will find the specific book children are reading that week in school, they may also bring a carefully matched actual book)

This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. 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 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.

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.

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!

You can find lots more information about how to support your child reading at home at <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/> and watch this space and Seesaw for further information regarding your child's log in for the Reading Practice book

Thank you for your patience while we all become experts in the new routines and mantras which come with Little Wandle – we are sure that by following the scheme faithfully we will help our children to become fluent readers quickly and effectively so they can access the pleasure books bring independently.

If you have any worries or concerns please chat to your child's teacher or mention them to me on the yard at the start of the day

Yours sincerely

Mrs Smyth
(Deputy Headteacher)