



Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you to the parents who were able to attend the Little Wandle information session. For those unable to attend, we would like to reiterate the points we highlighted at the meeting.

- Our school has chosen *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* as our systematic, synthetic phonics (SSP) programme to teach early reading and spelling.
- We will work our way through the whole Little Wandle Programme until your child can read fluently.
- There are specific resources for the Little Wandle Programme which the children will be very familiar with. Each sound that we teach to begin with has either a mnemonic (like the astronaut that you can see here) or a phrase like boing-boing for 'oi'. This helps the children recognise and remember the graphemes. Every time we teach a new sound, we also read words during the phonics lesson that contain that new sound so that the children practise what they have learned. We then go on to reading a sentence containing some of those words. We have displays in the classroom and on the tables to support the children throughout the day.
- It is **crucial** to read **daily** with the children at home (the same as before) as this will help the children develop recognition of words and fluency.
- The child will come home with the book they have read at school and so they should be able to read it with 90% fluency. While at first it might seem that the book is too easy for your child, what we are doing is building up your child's confidence and developing a love of reading.
- The Little Wandle lessons have a structured approach to ensure the children make great progress, which we are seeing daily. The lessons work on recapping their previous knowledge and adding to it every lesson. They have elements of spelling every session and there are writing sentence focuses.
- The Little Wandle scheme promotes group-reading sessions for children. In these group practise sessions, your child now gets to read the **whole** book each time we read with them three times a week. They are also getting individual one-to one time where

we go round and listen to and help them within the group. We have different focuses for the lessons, for example, decoding, working on expression and intonation and working on comprehension. The children develop fluency throughout the week and this is the aim of the scheme. Repeated practise daily is crucial for this progress to take place so the children eventually read words by sight.

- When reading at home with your child, please go to the inside front cover and get your child to:
 - Recap the sounds that they will be practising in that particular book.
 - Decode the words in the first box on the right hand side.
 - Read the tricky words underneath (learning them by sight as they cannot be decoded).
 - Decode the words in the vocabulary box and talk about their meaning. It is beneficial to show the children the visual representation of the word shown in the book and provide its context.
- The new scheme places a huge emphasis on high quality vocabulary and sentences in taught lessons such as, 'The sheep march up the hill and into the sunset. / We tell the farmer that his goat has got into the shower.' Vocabulary is being introduced and developed daily.

Please **do not** write in the books as we had books returned with underlines for the digraphs and trigraphs. The books are new and expensive.

Please also remember to keep your child's reading book in their book bag everyday so that it changed on the correct day.

We have seen tremendous improvements and progress with the children's Phonics with the Little Wandle scheme and we are looking forward to watching it develop in our school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Mrs Page and Miss Morris