



Early Reading at Grove Park Primary

We have decided to invest in a brand new scheme for teaching early reading in our school. This will impact the way that both phonics and early reading are taught. Phonics will continue to be taught daily to all children in Year R, Year 1 and Year 2 but will be taught following a phonics scheme called 'Little Wandle-Letters and Sounds revised'. This is a very thorough and very rigorous programme which teaches the children the skills they need to read.

"Over the last two decades, there has been a deepening recognition of the fundamental importance of improving reading standards on a child's future academic achievement, wellbeing and success in life. The reading and writing of Standard English, alongside proficient language development, is the key to unlocking the rest of the academic curriculum. Pupils who struggle to read struggle in all subjects and the wonders of a knowledge-rich curriculum passes them by unread. Fluency of reading is also a key indicator for future success in further education, higher education and employment."

The Reading Framework—DFE July 2021

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to your class teacher.

You can also find useful videos on the parent area of the Little Wandle website to help you understand our approach.

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

Reading Sessions

In Year R and Year 1, each child will also take part in three reading practice sessions. We have purchased sets of 120 new early reading books which are fully decodable for the children and entirely matched to the phonics scheme. Children will be reading in small groups and will read the same book three times with adults in school.

Each read in school will have a different focus:

- Decoding (sounding out)
- Prosody (reading with rhythm, stress and expression)
- Comprehension (to understand what they have read)

Year 2

In Year 2, in order to develop children's fluency and to help address gaps in children's reading and phonic knowledge after COVID, there will be the above reading sessions to start with. on their phonics gaps.

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 will bring home in Reception and Year 1; a phonics book and a reading for pleasure book.

Year 2

For any child still developing fluency; they will bring home a phonics book and a reading for pleasure book.

Reading Practice Book (Phonics Book)

Your child will take home a phonics book that they have read in school and that will only contain sounds they have previously learnt. This is to ensure that when your child is reading their book, they should be fluent and automatic. The aim is that the children read at 95% fluency. This may mean changes to the books and phonic phase your child is currently reading at. This is to ensure there is 95% fluency and to match the Little Wandle's progression.

What does reading at 95% fluency mean

Children reading at 95% fluency means that they should need little to no support reading the words, meaning that reading is a much more positive experience for children as it celebrates their successes; it is a time for the child to showcase their developing skills and phonetic knowledge to you. Please don't worry that it may appear too easy - your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading.

Listen to them read the book and read it with them more than once. Remember to give them lots of praise - celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, ask them to decode (sound it out) and blend it. After they have finished, talk about the book together.

This book will be changed weekly as re-reading builds fluency. When children read the same story multiple times, they pick up new information, dive deeper into the meaning of the book, and make connections between themselves and the book. It also allows them to make comparisons between their book and other books they've read and shared.

As these books are used in the reading practice sessions, it is vital that these books come into school every day or this will impact on our reading sessions in school.



Sharing book (Reading for Pleasure Book)

In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The reading for pleasure book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together. There will be more flexibility on choosing and changing these books. Your child may choose the same book twice, or more than twice! This is absolutely fine, they have chosen the book because they enjoy it. When a child chooses to read a favourite book over and over again, they are getting lots of practice to build fluency.

The children are also able to change their reading for pleasure book if they find that they do not like the book.

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 and explore the facts in a non-fiction book. In addition, after reading the book you can pick out some words and help them to expand their vocabulary by discussing alternatives for these words. The main thing is, you have fun!



Reading Records

The reading record is for you as the parents to communicate and celebrate how much reading your child is completing outside of school. Please comment or sign every time you read with your child; no matter what they have read (e.g. bed time stories, comic books, e-books, books at home or from a library) or whether they are reading a book for the thirteenth time! You will notice that there won't be comments from the teacher since they will read in school regularly.

We hope you are as excited as we are to embark on this new journey into Little Wandle Letters and Sounds.