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National Support School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

At Warden House, we teach phonics and early reading using the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds programme. We have been using this scheme and resources for three years now and have seen great successes with its approach. This letter will explain how we teach children to read and how you can support your child's learning at home.

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.

In Reception and KS1, there will be **two** types of reading book that your child will bring home:

1. **A reading practice (phonics) book.** This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. At the start, in Reception, these books will be wordless. Your child should be able to read this book fluently and independently. Your child will read this book in school 3 times during the week before bringing it home on a Thursday. Please keep this book safely in your child's book bag and bring it into school every day. This book must be returned to school on a Monday.
2. **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. This will be clearly labelled as a sharing book. This book can be changed as frequently as you wish.

Reading practice (phonics) book

This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please do not worry that it is too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading to later build more complex comprehension skills. Little Wandle places a greater emphasis on mastering the skill of fluency and as such we encourage children to re-read books to develop this important aspect of reading.

Listen to them read the book *repeatedly*. Remember to give them lots of praise – celebrate their success! After they have finished, talk about the book together. Please read this book with your child **a minimum of 3 times per week** to allow them to really build their fluency. We will send further guidance on how you may structure each session at home. Additional guidance will be sent out about wordless books separately. We will also be running some parent workshops to provide more information on this. Because we want the children to master fluency, we do not change phonics books daily and encourage you to follow the guidance that will be inside your child's reading record.



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 should not 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! This book can be changed weekly – or more frequently if required.

Accelerated reader book (from Year 2 onwards)

Once your child has progressed through their phonics programme and can demonstrate consistent and fluent reading, they will be assessed and placed onto an Accelerated Reader book. This can be changed once your child has read and understood the book. Should you wish, your child can take a quiz at home to assess their comprehension of the story. These quizzes are no longer compulsory in school.

Reading records

Please ensure your child is reading 5 times a week or daily at home. If your child has a phonics practice book, please ensure this is read a minimum of 3 times between Thursday and Monday. You can detail in the reading record which book you have read- e.g. 'Sharing book read and we spotted tricky words together.' Please remember to date each session and note as much detail as you can about your child's home reading.

How we teach reading and phonics

Little Wandle have a great area for parents on their website. There are videos that demonstrate how to pronounce the sounds. Click below to access this:

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

Notice how the children do not add an 'uh' sound at the end, so they say: 't' not 'tuh'. Use the downloadable information to help your child remember how to write their letters and say their sounds.

The videos also show you how we teach specific aspects of phonics in class including blending and tricky words. As they make progress, it will include whole sentences to read, writing words and spelling.

Thank you for your support – it really is important, and we truly value all the time that you can give at home in support of your child's reading. Please contact your child's teacher should you have any questions regarding home reading.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Marcks & Mrs. Bailey
English Leader *Phonics Leader*