

Dear parent/Carers,

We have introduced a new phonics scheme which will start in January called 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised.' There is an informative website that you can use to familiarise yourself with the scheme or get more information.

Website Link: www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/

As the children learn new graphemes they will learn a catchphrase to match the sounds. These become even more important when we start learning alternative spellings for the same grapheme. e.g. **ur** curl the fur or **er** a bigger digger

As they learn different spellings they 'grow the code' and learn to use grapheme charts to help them choose the right spelling. These will be used later in the year.

The biggest change for our teaching is the way we teach tricky words. The new scheme teaches the children to apply their phonics knowledge to tricky words and explains why the word is tricky. e.g. **is** - The i is phonetic but the 's' makes a 'z' sound. This is what makes it tricky. e.g. **of** - The 'o' is phonetic but the 'f' makes a 'v' sound. This is what makes it tricky.

The children are taught which bits of the words are phonetic and which bits are tricky. The biggest and most exciting change is the reading practise sessions. **This will start in January.** We will no longer listen to individual reading in class. The children will have 3 reading sessions a week with a teacher or TA. Each reading session will focus on different things.

1. Decoding - The children will look through the tricky words and any new vocabulary and have an opportunity to read the book to decode the words.
2. Prosody - In this session they read the book again but the focus is on building expression and intonation.
3. Comprehension - In this final session the children will learn to answer questions about the text. They will be asked to prove it and explain it and use examples from the text to help back up their answers.

In each session the children will all read the book aloud and the adult will circulate and listen to all of them. This means they get lots of opportunities to practise and build fluency. The book will then be accessed using EBOOKs at home (**Separate information is attached**). The way we cover the books in class and match the groups to assessments means that by the time

the book gets home to you it should be extremely easy for your child to read and you get to give them a chance to show off! This will give you more time to enjoy the picture books the

children are bringing home regularly (they are allowed to swap these several times a week) or library books. Sharing high quality picture books, building your child's knowledge of stories and developing their vocabulary is so valuable.

The scheme also has built in 'keep up sessions' to help children that have found something difficult. We no longer need to listen to children read individually, therefore will dedicate TA time to supporting children to keep up. If your child comes home with a sticker on their arm with a sound or a tricky word then please ask them about it a few times that evening to reinforce their learning from that day.

We are very excited about the new scheme and the beautiful new books and resources. Please bear with us as we are learning and adapting as we implement these changes.

Thank you