



8th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are excited to share with you the launch of our new phonics and early reading program, and to let you know how you can support your child's reading journey at home.

At our school, we believe that English is the foundation of all learning. The ability to speak, listen, read, and write confidently is one of the greatest gifts we can offer our children, as it empowers them to become independent, lifelong learners.

With this in mind, we place reading at the very heart of our curriculum and are constantly striving to improve our teaching practices. This year, we are pleased to announce that we are adopting *Little Wandle*, a government-accredited phonics scheme. We believe this exciting change will significantly strengthen the already excellent reading skills of our pupils and provide an excellent foundation for our new intake.

To support this new approach, we have made a substantial investment in our phonics and reading provision. We have purchased beautiful new resources for teaching phonics, provided extensive training for the whole school staff and purchased over 3000 new books for the children to enjoy.

Phonics Programme

We have chosen Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised as our systematic synthetic phonics (SSP) programme for teaching early reading and spelling. This programme builds on the foundations of the original *Letters and Sounds*, which, like many schools across the country, we have successfully used and championed for many years.

Little Wandle provides a fully resourced, comprehensive teaching programme, with clear expectations for progression that are both aspirational and achievable. We will follow the entire programme until your child is confidently using their phonic knowledge and blending skills to read fluently and independently.



Children need to learn to read as quickly as reasonably possible so they can transition from *learning to read* to *reading to learn* — unlocking the treasure house of reading and all the opportunities it holds.

What's happening in school?

Phonics in Nursery

If your child attends our Nursery provision, we will be preparing them by teaching them the foundations of phonics. We use engaging games to teach oral blending and phonemic awareness. We support language development and a love of books through: sharing high quality stories and poems, learning a range of nursery rhymes and action rhymes, activities that develop focused listening and attention and pay attention to high-quality language with children.

Phonics in Reception and Year 1

As usual, children in Reception and Year 1 will continue to have daily phonics lessons. They will be taught 4 new grapheme-phoneme correspondences (GPCs) per week and have a review lesson on a Friday. Knowing a GPC means being able to match a phoneme (sound) to a grapheme (written representation) and vice versa. The children will also learn a series of 'tricky words'. Tricky words are those words which cannot be sounded out using their phonemes. We will build into the timetable some weeks for the children to consolidate what has been taught so far. We assess your child every six weeks to check progress. Any child who needs extra support will have keep-up sessions planned for them.

Phonics in Year 2

During the autumn term, the children will revisit the grapheme-phoneme correspondences (GPCs) they learned in Year 1. Following this, they will focus on developing their understanding of different spelling patterns and improving grammatical accuracy for the remainder of the year. Children who did not pass the Phonics Screening Check in June will take part in additional catch-up phonics sessions through a targeted intervention group led by Mrs Curtis.

Reading

Children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 will take part in reading practice sessions three times a week, led by either a teacher or a teaching assistant. Each session focuses on a different aspect of reading: the first session targets decoding (sounding out words), the second develops prosody—reading with expression using a storyteller's voice—and the third concentrates on comprehension.

We read the same book three times in school to help develop fluency. Repeated exposure to words supports children in recognising them automatically, without needing to sound them out each time. After completing the three in-school reads, children will bring the book home to read with you. Books will be changed weekly, following the third in-school read.



Supporting your child with reading at home

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. Your child will take home two texts each week, a reading practice book and a reading for pleasure book.

Reading practice books

These decodable books have been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. There is a temptation to want to push them on, but evidence shows that repetition is key to progressing and developing as a reader.

When listening to your child read, remember to offer plenty of praise—celebrate their successes and, when needed, acknowledge their perseverance!

Here are some helpful tips to support your child's reading at home:

- **Give them time:** If they can't read a word straight away, encourage them to use their phonics skills to sound it out. If needed, help them blend the sounds or read the word together.
- **Re-read for fluency:** Revisit sentences to help develop rhythm, expression, and intonation.
- **Talk about the book:** Once you've finished reading, have a chat about the story to help build comprehension skills.

Working together in this way helps to build your child's confidence and supports them on their journey to becoming a fluent, enthusiastic reader.

It is very important that your child's reading practice book is returned to school each week so that it can be exchanged for a new one. This ensures they can continue to make progress in their reading.

Each book is part of a carefully organised set, and missing books make it difficult for other children to access the full series. Due to the cost of these resources, we are unfortunately unable to issue another book until the previous one has been returned. If a book has been

lost or damaged, we kindly ask that it is either replaced or that a £5 contribution is made to cover the cost of replacement.

Reading for pleasure texts

To help foster a lifelong love of reading, it's important that children learn to read for pleasure. In addition to their reading practice books, your child will also have access to a wide selection of storybooks that they can choose from and take home to enjoy with you.

Please don't feel that your child needs to read these books independently. Instead, read the book to them or enjoy it together. Talk about the pictures, share in the excitement of the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, or explore interesting facts in a nonfiction book. Most importantly—have fun!

Reading Records

We will continue to use the Reading Records to note your child's assigned books and sign and date when they have read at school.

It is important to us that the record is easy for families to complete so please leave a short comment in the record to let us know your child has read the assigned books. We are always interested to hear how they got on. Please do not hesitate to talk to your child's teacher if you have any questions about their reading.

Supporting Phonics at Home

For further information on how to support your child with phonics, please visit the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds website: [For parents | Letters and Sounds](#)

You will find a grapheme information sheet to help you with formation and pronunciation. It is really important that you pronounce the sounds correctly at home if you are supporting your child. The videos are on the website for you to refer to and if you are unsure, please ask your child's teacher.

Reading and Phonics Information Sessions

We will be holding information sessions for parents and carers about the teaching of reading and phonics in school.

For Key Stage 1 parents and carers:

Sessions will take place on **Wednesday 10th September** at **9:00am** and **2:45pm**.

For Reception parents and carers:

Sessions will take place on:

- **Wednesday 17th September** at **2:45pm**, or
- **Friday 19th September** at **9:00am**.

Please note that you only need to attend one session.



We hope you can join us to learn more about how we support your child's reading journey.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Claire Boyce

Assistant Headteacher
English and Reading Leader

