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Dear Parents/Carers

**Changes to How we Teach Phonics and Reading at Wyborne in Reception and Year 1.**

We have recently purchased a new scheme called Little Wandle Letters and Sounds, which is a systematic synthetic phonics ( **SSP** ) programme.

In line with the programme of study in the SSP, children in Reception will be taught graphemes and tricky words from Phases 2 to 4 and in Year 1 they will review these sounds before moving on to Phase 5.

Once the children move into Year 2, they should be secure in Phase 5 and will therefore move on to the spelling and reading objectives from the National Curriculum. Any children not yet secure in Phase 5 by the time they move into Year 2 will receive Keep Up intervention to fill any phonetic gaps they may have.

How you can support us at home:

* **EBook Library –** The reading books that the children practice reading in school will be available to read at home via the eBook Library (you should receive your log on details from your child’s class teacher) Please use this valuable resource to support your child’s reading at home. Listen to them read and don’t worry that it might be too easy, this will enable your child to develop fluency and confidence in reading. Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise – celebrate their success! If they can’t read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.
* **A sharing book.**  Your child may not be able to read this book on their own as it is not fully decodable and may not match their exact phonics level. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together and the main focus is on developing a love of reading. 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 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, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

**Support for Parents**

If you visit the following website [**https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/**](https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/)you will find resources to help you when supporting your child with saying their sounds and writing their letters. and to inform you about what your child will be learning in school.

Find our full Reception and Year 1 teaching programme overview [here](https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Programme-Overview_Reception-and-Year-1-1.pdf)to see what your child will learn and when.

**How we Teach**

The videos on the website page show parents how we teach your child specific aspects of phonics in class.

I also plan to lead some parent workshops about phonics later in the spring term so please keep an eye out for further details about these.

**Teaching of Handwriting**

To bring our handwriting scheme in line with the new SSP programme, we will be teaching a non-cursive approach to handwriting in EYFS and Year 1. We are aware that this has some repercussions for some children who have already started to learn pre-cursive. If your child has already mastered the pre-cursive approach to handwriting, then this will continue. If they haven’t, the children will be taught non-cursive.

**Reading in Years 2-6**

In Year 2 the children will continue to read books matched to their reading level in small groups in school. They are able to select a sharing book to take home to read for pleasure. In the summer term, reading in Year 2 will move to the whole class guided reading approach in preparation for moving into KS2, where this is how reading is taught.

Whole class guided reading is a fantastic way to ensure the children are being exposed to a wide range of rich texts to help develop their comprehension and enjoyment of reading. We look at a variety of genres of texts, a mix of whole texts and extracts and sometimes use other media such as short films in order to apply our DERIC skills.

DERIC stands for decode, explain, retrieve, infer and choice, which are the skills needed to fully understand a text and therefore be able to read and comprehend it. Class teachers will provide a text, which will be read using decoding skills, they will ask a set of retrieval questions and discuss tricky vocabulary, followed by plenty of discussion and questions to apply the DERIC elements of reading.

Any children that continue to need extra support with reading as they move up the school, will be a part of small intervention groups to help them catch up.

Every class from Nursery to Year 6 has a daily read aloud session where the class teacher reads a book to the class at the end of the day. These books are usually separate to the books used for reading lessons and our core texts in English so that the children are exposed to even more rich texts.

The children are encouraged to choose a book to independently read for pleasure during our ‘Reading for Pleasure’ sessions in class and to take home to read. Even if your child is in an older year group and is able to read fluently independently, it is still important to read with them just to promote the love of reading. Just a few minutes a day can make such a difference. It has also been proven that children who see adults modelling reading for pleasure are more likely to read for pleasure themselves so why not curl up together and both read your own books at the same time.

When reading with your children at home, please talk to your children and ask questions about the following things;

* Draw inferences, such as inferring characters thoughts, feelings and motives and finding evidence in text of this.
* Predict what might happen from details stated and implied
* Identify main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph and summarise these
* Identify how language, structure and presentation contribute towards meaning
* Retrieve information from the text.
* Participate in discussion about the books they have read.
* Discuss words, phrases and new vocabulary.

We are looking forward to the positive impact of Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Bunch

English Lead