

Thursday 9th September 2021

Dear Parents,

At school this year your child will be taught Phonics through 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds'. We are very excited about this lovely, new scheme! Please read this letter to find out more!



Phonics scheme

Phonics is the process by which we initially teach children to read. It is very important in the early stages of learning to read and is therefore taught daily in EYFS and KS1. The 'Little Wandle' scheme has lots of reading and writing practice. The sessions are pacy and will engage the children and help them develop reading skills and love of reading.

As 'Little Wandle' is a new scheme for St Andrews, we will be adapting some of the order and speed of the teaching programme. This is based on previous teaching and knowledge so please don't be alarmed if your child's learning 'week' does not match up to overview given on website. Your child will be assessed regularly to ensure they are progressing well.

Supporting your child with phonics at home:

You can support your children at home by listening to them saying the sounds they have learnt at school. Correct pronunciation of sounds can be found on the 'For Parents' section of the website. There is also support videos to learn how we teach phonics. The website address is:

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

Supporting your child with reading at home: *The information below is directly from the website.*

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 may bring home:

A reading practice book. This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently.

A sharing book. Your child will not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together. *This is to be trialled in Year 2 (to begin before the end of September) and then introduced to other year groups if and when appropriate.*

Reading practice book

This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs 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.

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 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!

Reading books:

Your child will soon bring home a school reading book ('Reading Practice book'). This will align to their phonics stage. Please remember that the intention is for your child to be able to **read the book well**. This book will help them develop fluency and enjoyment in reading. Please use the school reading record to sign and date when you have heard your child read and feel free to comment on how they have got on.

The book stages may alter based on the Little Wandle progression so don't worry too much about the stage stated on the back of the book, we can assure you that the book your child is given has been chosen based on phonics progression.

Initially your child will bring home one book from the stage each week. These will be **collected in on Tuesdays** and returned to your child on **Fridays** (or day specified by class teacher). Make sure your child's book and reading record are in their book bag every day.

If you have any questions, please contact me or your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Shirra
Phonics/Reading Subject Leader