

Information for parents / carers

Your child's reading journey

Y1 Spring term



Your child is on their journey to becoming a skilled reader. In Reception, they learned all of the single letter sounds, the consonant digraphs and some vowel digraphs (digraph: two letters, one sound) and trigraphs (three letters, one sound). In Year 1, children have begun to learn the remaining graphemes in the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised programme. These are alternative spellings for the sounds that they already know. The children are becoming more fluent readers and will read increasingly challenging texts.

What will my child be taught in school this term?

- This term, phonics lessons run for 20–30 minutes daily.
- Your child will learn the Phase 5 alternative graphemes on their own and in words.
- They will continue to be taught the tricky words that they will read in their books.
- They will also have an opportunity to apply their phonic knowledge to reading a book (matched to their level), at least three times a week.
- Your child may need daily additional practise to help secure their learning.

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My child is reading the books fluently at home. Do they need a more challenging book?

- No! We want children to be able to read fluently and not find reading to be a chore.
- Once they can read fluently, they can focus on adding expression when reading aloud and showing their understanding of the book. Use the prompts on the back page of the books to check your child's understanding.
- Remember that phonics supports your child's reading and their spelling!

All for the love of reading

- Phonics is the way we unlock reading for your child. Our goal is for your child to master phonics, so they become a confident reader who loves books.
- Remember that when children choose to read, they increase their vocabulary, knowledge of the world around them and they develop their empathy. We will share books with your child every day and would love it if you did the same. Reading with your child really is the best possible way to inspire a love of books in them.

What can I do to support my child at home?

- Read to your child daily – books you can enjoy together. The love of reading books we send home are a great place to start!
- Listen to them practise reading their phonics book to develop their fluency at least four times per week.
- Regularly practise the 'tricky words' that are sent home.
- Ask your child's teacher if you need extra help with supporting your child – that's what we're here for.

Grown-up homework!

Here are some quick activities and links to give you the confidence to support your child with phonics.

1. Watch the videos for parents

Go to the 'For parents' area of the Little Wandle website (see link below) and watch the following videos:

- How to say Phase 5 sounds
- How we teach Phase 5
- How we teach tricky words

Find further resources and information for parents and carers at: www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents

2. Help your child develop a love of reading

Try to do one or more of the following with your child this term.

- Visit your local library
- Find a book to buy in your local charity shop
- Learn a Nursery Rhyme together
- Make a special time every day for sharing books.