

13th January 2023

Changes to the Teaching of Reading

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very excited to share with you our new reading approach that runs alongside our Little Wandle phonics program.

Across Reception and Year 1, in addition to our daily Little Wandle phonics sessions, each child will take part in two reading practice sessions using fully decodable books which are exactly matched to the phonics scheme.

Children will be reading in small groups and will read the same book at least twice with adults in school to develop reading strategies, fluency and understanding. Children in Year 1 will also complete follow-up tasks, which are based on the book they have been reading. During the reading sessions in school, we will focus on:

- Decoding
- Prosody - reading with rhythm, stress and intonation
- Comprehension

Reading at home

Once your child has finished reading the book in school, we will either send the book home in their book bag or provide you with a link to an e-book version of the text which you can then access online. Reading the book at home will be an opportunity for your child to share what they have been learning and 'show off' their reading skills.

All e-books will be available in the Collins Big Cat e-book library. Teachers shared the log on details via PING at the beginning of the academic year. If you have any problems accessing the Collins Big Cat e-book library for any reason, please let your child's class teacher know and we will support you with this.

The book we will be sending home is one of a set of six that we now use to teach in the small group read. If books are sent home, it is really important that they are returned by the following Friday at the latest so that we are able to use the sets for teaching the following week. If there is a reason you are not able to return the book, please talk to your class teacher.

Supporting your child with reading

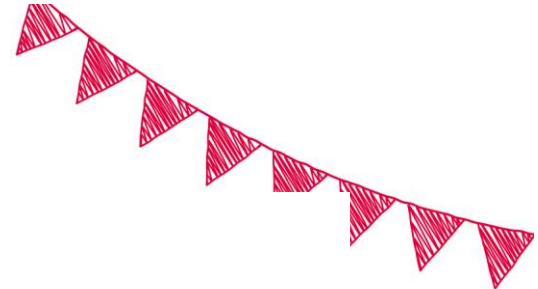
Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home.

WEST HOVE

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Your child will bring home two different books each week:

- The **reading practice** book they have been reading in class. This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child.

This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If they are reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading.

Please listen to your child read this book at home as often as you can – at least once a day if possible. 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 will choose this book from their class library. They may not necessarily be able to read this on their own but the book is for you both to read and enjoy together.

In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure.

Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this book. 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! Remember, children are never too old to be read to!

Reading diaries will still be sent home as usual. Please continue to write down the name of any books that they are reading for practice or pleasure at home. We would also love to hear about any books that you are reading to them.

Further information

To find out more about how we teach reading at school and how you can support at home, please visit the Little Wandle website.

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

Interesting facts

Here's how many words children would have heard by the time they were 5 years old:

- Never read to: 4,662 words;
- 1–2 times per week: 63,570 words;
- 3–5 times per week: 169,520 words;
- Daily: 296,660 words;
- and five books a day: 1,483,300 words

This clearly demonstrates the power of reading!

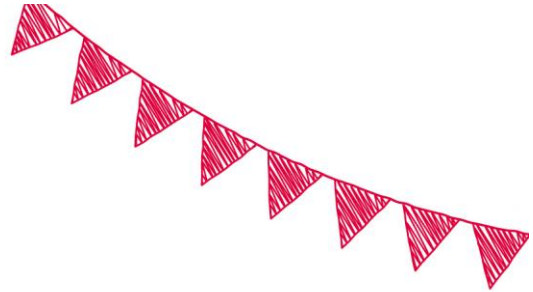
If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to talk to your class teacher.



WEST HOVE INFANT SCHOOL

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A family of friends



Yours sincerely,

Maddie Southern

Maddie Southern
Headteacher

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Ben Massey'.

Ben Massey
Head of School, Portland Road

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