

**Changes to How we Teach Reading at Ovingham and Mickley in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.**

We have recently introduced a new reading scheme called ‘Little Wandle Letters and Sounds’ to bring our reading approaches/schemes in line with the new guidance about how to teach children to read. Little Wandle Letters and Sounds is a systematic synthetic phonics ( **SSP** ) programme. As well as a daily phonics lesson, your child will also read with an adult at school three times a week. These sessions will focus on fluency, prosody (intonation and expression) and comprehension.

There are two types of reading book that your child will bring home:

• **A reading practice book called My 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 called Our 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.

**The Reading Practice Book (My 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. As part of our homework policy we recommend that children read for at least 5-10 minutes each night. Please can you continue to record this reading session in your child’s reading record.

**The Sharing Book (Our 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!

**Support for Parents**

These three videos (link below) show you how to pronounce the sounds. Notice how the children don’t add an ‘uh’ sound at the end, so they say: ‘t’ not ‘tuh’. Use the downloadable information to help your child remember how to write their letters and say their sounds.

Further Support can be found via this link: **https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for parents/**

The resources on the above link will also help you support your child with saying their sounds and writing their letters. There are also some useful videos which demonstrate how they are taught phonics and reading at school.

Find our full Reception and Year 1 teaching programme overview here to see what your child will learn and when.

**How we Teach**

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

**Teaching of Handwriting**

To bring our handwriting scheme in line with the new SSP programme, we will be phasing in teaching a non-cursive approach to handwriting. 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.

From this year all children entering the Reception class will start learning to form letters using the non-cursive approach, and the cursive approach will start in Year 2.

If anyone has any questions about this, please speak to Mrs Ward, English Subject Leader or your class teacher.

**Additional Information on how we Teach Reading in Year 2**

If your child ends Year 1 on the Orange Level or below, they will continue reading these fully decodable books, in Year 2. When they have finished Orange Bookband reading books, other banded books (decodable phonics books) will be added to the choice of readers and matched at the appropriate reading level. The children will be given a reading book in school and they will now read this book at home as well. Please make sure either you or your child completes their reading record each time they read.

As part of our homework policy, we recommend that children read for 10 minutes or longer each night. Please can you continue to record this reading session in your child’s reading record.

**Changes to How we Teach Reading in Year 3 and Year 4**

The children will take part in a daily guided reading session within class in which they will be taught reading skills and given the opportunity to practise these. Your child will be reading regularly with an adult in school but this will not always be recorded in their record book. If your child is reading a banded or a Little Wandle book(as detailed above), this will continue and they will have an Our Book to enjoy as well. If your child is reading above the level of the banded book in terms of fluency, prosody and comprehension then they will be guided towards an appropriate reading book for their level and interest.

As part of our homework policy, we recommend that children read for 10 minutes or longer each night. Please can you continue to record this reading session in your child’s reading record. When they have finished their book and it needs changing, they can alert their teacher and change their book.

Please talk to your children and ask questions about the following things when you listen to them read;

* Vocabulary- discuss words and phrases
* Inference - inferring character's thoughts, feelings and motives and finding evidence in the text of this
* Predict what might happen from details stated and implied
* Explain- Identify or explain how information or narrative content is related and contributes to the meaning as a whole. Identify/explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases. Make comparisons within the text
* Retrieve information from the text.
* Summarise or sequence the main ideas from more than one paragraph

Further advice and suggestions can be found on our website by following this link.

<http://www.ovinghamfirst.northumberland.sch.uk/web/reading_vipers/621992>

As usual, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or your child’s class teacher.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Ward

Executive Deputy Head Teacher

Literacy Subject Leader