**Changes to the Teaching of Phonics and Early Reading**

Dear Parents & Carers,

Following a recent change in government guidance we have decided to invest in a brand-new scheme for teaching early reading in our school. This will impact the way that both phonics and reading are taught.

Phonics will continue to be taught daily to all children but will be taught following a newly released phonics scheme called ‘Little Wandle-Letters and Sounds revised.’ This is a thorough and rigorous programme which teaches the children the skills they need to read.

There are now two types of reading book that your child will be bringing home:

**The Reading Practice Book:**

Alongside our daily phonics lessons, each child will take part in reading practice sessions. In these sessions, children will be reading books which are fully decodable and entirely matched to the phonics scheme. This book will then be sent home. It has been carefully matched to your child’s current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please do not worry that it is 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 cannot read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.

Please ensure that books are returned to school promptly and looked after properly ready for the next child to read.

**The Sharing Book:**

The sharing book is for you and your child to read and enjoy together. They will not be able to read this on their own. These books are to encourage story vocabulary, imagination and developing a reading stamina.

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.

**Support for Parents**

Further support can be found via this link:

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

Here you will find videos to show you how to correctly pronounce the sounds. Notice how the children do not add an ‘uh’ sound at the end, so they say: ‘t’ not ‘tuh.’

Through the link you can use the downloadable information to help your child remember how to write their letters and say their sounds. There are also videos to show parents how we teach your child specific aspects of phonics in class.

We hope you are as excited as we are to embark on this new journey into Little Wandle Letters and Sounds.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to talk to any teacher in Reception and Key Stage 1.

Kind Regards

Mrs Coates

Reading Leader