



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are moving to a new Phonics scheme this year. Following recent government guidance we have invested in 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' to teach early reading skills in our school. This change will impact the way phonics and reading are taught at school. All changes will have a positive effect on the children's learning and we are excited to implement this scheme. Little Wandle Letters and Sounds is a systematic synthetic phonics programme.

We'd like to invite all parents in Class 1 to our 'Little Wandle' Phonics Workshop on Tuesday 20th September at 3.30pm-4.30pm to inform you of the changes to how we will teach phonics in school and how you can support your child's reading at home. We will also talk in detail about the books that your child will now be bringing home and also providing parents with a login for their Collins e-book account. It is important that you attend (childcare will be provided). Please see some key information below.

Phonics in School (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)

The children will have daily phonics as normal and then they will have reading practise sessions at school three times a week. This will differ from our individual reading to now becoming group reading sessions. The books are completely decodable and matched to what is being taught in the lessons.

As mentioned, there will be three reading sessions in school a week. The children will have the same book for each session, with a different focus each time:

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

The children will be given a reading book when they can demonstrate that they can blend sounds together. When reading at home, the children should be able to show you their reading skills and sound out the words in the book. Please continue to ask them lots of questions such as what is happening in the picture, who is wearing a hat, what might happen next etc.?

When reading with your child, the key to unlocking comprehension is asking them lots of questions and having beneficial discussions. Questions unlock thinking and discussing the pictures, predicting what might happen next, using different voices for different characters, thinking about character's personalities and relating the books to their own lives are all fantastic ways to work on comprehension. Exploring a range of non-fiction texts is also invaluable for the children's knowledge and understanding of the world.

The main aim is to make reading FUN and the children are never too old to be read to.

Changes to books for home

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

- **An independent reading practise e-book (Collins Big Cat)** – This book will be an e-book and accessed through your own personal 'Collins e-book' login, which will be given to parents at our parent workshop on Tuesday 20th September (3.30pm-4.30pm). This book will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They will be reading this book in their reading practice sessions three times in school. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. This book is completely decodable.
- **A hard copy Little Wandle book** – This book is matched to your child's phonic knowledge and is completely decodable. Your child has not read this book in school, so will still be decoding to begin with and then should become more fluent by the end of the week.
- **An extra reading practise book (Gold Sticker)** – This book is matched to their phonic stage. Your child may need some support to read this book. This book is decodable. These books have been best matched with the Little Wandle phonics scheme to follow progression of reading.

- **A sharing book (Red Sticker)** – This book is from our school library. This book is for you to enjoy together and you may need to read the whole book to your child.

The independent reading practise book: Big Cat Books (E-book) / Hard copy Little Wandle Book

These 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 e-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.

The extra reading practice book: E.g. Phonics Bug Club book (Gold Sticker)

This book has been chosen for your child that closely matches your child's phonics level. Your child may need some support with this book. Please read it with them. Giving lots of praise as they read the words they can decode.

The Sharing Book: Library book (Red Sticker)

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!

The scheme promotes a love for reading and this is done by sharing books. Please continue to support us with reading as usual at home, reading daily. As the aim is create fluency, the children should be reading the book daily at home so it is revisited several times. The book from the Little Wandle scheme is carefully matched to your child's reading level. If your child is reading it with limited support, please do not worry that it is too easy – it is to develop fluency and confidence. Providing lots of praise and encouragement will really help their fluency and confidence.

As part of our homework policy we recommend that children read for 5-10 minutes each night/ 3-5 times a week. Please can you continue to record these reading session in your child's reading record. Ideally the 3 reads should include 1 of each of these and then to achieve strive for 5 you can choose to read the independent reading book twice and the extra reading practise book twice etc.

Changes to How we Teach Reading at Bolton in Year 2

If your child ends year 1 on the Big Cat books on bookband Orange Level or below, they will continue the Little Wandle programme and will continue to be closely matched to the decodable books to practice their phonics. Once your child can fluently read Orange bookband books with confidence, they will be moved onto the school's bookband colour books that start on Turquoise (expected level from Year 2). They will then take home 2 books from the colour book band selection which they should be able to read independently and will continue to take home a sharing book.

For further support, please visit the website below. This gives you information about how you can support phonics at home, how the sounds are pronounced, how we will be teaching phonics and the books that will be coming home.

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

We are excited about the new scheme and look forward to this new way of working. We know that it will have enormous benefits for the children. Please feel free to ask any questions.

Kind regards,

Mrs Tinkler (Reading Lead)