



Dear Parents/Carers,

As you may be aware, we have moved to a new Phonics scheme starting this September. Following government guidance we have invested in 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' to teach phonics and early reading skills in our school. This change will impact the way phonics and reading are taught at Pendragon. All changes will have a positive effect on the children's learning and we are excited to implement this scheme.

Children's progression in Phonics is directly related to their reading ability. The Little Wandle programme has a thorough and consistent approach, which interlinks both of these skills. The aim is for all children to be working alongside their peers with a similar, secure phonic knowledge. The children are taught phonemes (the letter sounds) with either a related word or simple formation phrase. They are taught overt blending, but fluent blending in their heads is the ultimate goal.

The scheme is set out for Reception and Year 1 however; children in Year 2 will be continuing to secure their phonic knowledge, application of phonics to spelling and reading fluency through using elements of the scheme.

The children will have daily phonics as normal and then they will have reading practise sessions at school three times a week whereby they will read a book within a group session. Friends of Pendragon have kindly funded the Little Wandle online eBook library, which will enable children to access reading books at home. As with our previous books, these are completely decodable and matched to what is taught in lessons.

The scheme promotes a love for reading and this will be achieved by the children reading the phonics books they read in school at home. Please continue to support your child with reading at home, as this will help to develop fluency skills. The phonic books from the Little Wandle scheme will be 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. When reading at home, your child should be able to show you their reading skills and sound out the words in the book. If they are unsure about a word, read it to them and ensure you talk about what it means. Continue to discuss the book throughout encouraging them to talk about what is happening, how the characters might be feeling and what might happen next. For non-fiction texts talk about the features of the book eg contents page and index as well as reflecting on any new facts learned. For Year 2 children who are ready to exit the programme, a fluency book will be allocated.

In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. Reading for pleasure is 'reading that we do of our own free will, anticipating the satisfaction that we get from the act of reading.' In order to encourage this your child will bring home book – known as a sharing book. This may be chosen from the class reading area, year group sharing library or school library and may change over the period of a week. This book is for you to read to your child with the aim to enjoy the act of sharing a book and being read to. Reading the sharing book will also help develop the children's language and imagination. This will help them in all aspects of the curriculum. Please do not expect your child to be able to read this book as it may well be beyond their level. This should be a positive, shared reading experience. We would like to celebrate all kinds of reading therefore if your child chooses to read something other than their school books please also record this in their reading record. This might be a sign (road, street, shop) when you are out and about, recipes, magazines, joke books, menus etc. We will not be continuing with reading dragons or certificates but instead we will be celebrating reading within our classes and whole school celebration assembly.

We are excited about the new scheme and raising the profile of reading for pleasure at Pendragon and look forward. We know that it will have enormous benefits for the children.

Kind regards,  
Mrs Willmore