

Frenchay C. of E. Primary School



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Changes to How we Teach Reading at Frenchay in Reception and Year 1.

We have recently purchased 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.

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

- **A reading practice book – Collins Big Cat.** This will be an e-book. It will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. Logins and information for the e-books will be sent out by your child's class teacher soon.
- **A sharing 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.

Your child will have between **3-5** books altogether each week – 1 reading practice book and 2-4 sharing books.

The Reading Practice Book: Big Cat Books

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. Your child should:

- Know all the sounds and tricky words in their phonics book well
- Read many of the words by silent blending (in their head) – their reading will be automatic
- Only need to stop and sound out about 5% of the words by the time they bring the book home – but they should be able to do this on their own.

Listen to
them read

Taken from Hebrews 10:24-25
*'And let us consider how we may spur
one another on toward love and good
deeds'*



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.

We recommend that children read for 5-10 minutes each night. Please can you continue to record this reading session in your child's reading record.

The Sharing Book: Oxford Reading Tree, Songbirds, Bug Club or Library 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 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 reading

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

There are specific resources for the Little Wandle Programme which the children will be very familiar with. Each sound that we teach to begin with has either a mnemonic (a picture with the grapheme) or a phrase like 'boing-boing' for 'oi'. This helps the children recognise and remember the graphemes. Every time we teach a new sound, we also read words

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during the phonics lesson that contain that new sound, so that the children practise what they have learned. We then go on to reading and/or writing a sentence containing some of those words. We have displays in the classroom and on the tables to support the children throughout the day.

1:1 reading with the children in school will be replaced by reading practice sessions. These are timetabled for 2-3 times a week. They are taught by a trained teacher or teaching assistant in small groups. The children read the same book for a week. The first time we work on **decoding** (sounding out) the words, the second time we work on **prosody** (reading with expression – making the book sound more interesting with our story-teller voice) and **comprehension**. We read the books 2-3 times at school because we want to develop the fluency. The more they see words the more they begin to read them automatically without having to sound them out.

This e-book will then be assigned to you to read at home every Friday for the week – this is the reading practice book.

How we teach spelling

1. Say the word 'sheep'
2. Segment the sounds using segmenting fingers 'sh-ee-p'
3. Count the sounds 'there are 3 sounds in sheep 'sh, ee, p'
4. Write them down.

We assess your child every six weeks to check progress. Any child who needs extra support has daily keep-up sessions planned for them.

The changes to reading books will come into effect next week. If you have any further questions about the changes to phonics and reading in EYFS and KS1, please talk to your child's class teacher.

Best wishes

Katherine Marks

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