

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very excited to begin sending reading books home with our Reception children. We follow Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised for phonics and early reading and we wanted to explain how our reading books work and, importantly, the thinking behind the approach.

Why is my child starting with a wordless book?

At the beginning of Reception, children are only just starting to learn the sounds that letters represent and how to put these sounds together to read words. Little Wandle recommends that children begin with a wordless book. They are an important part of learning to read. They give children the opportunity to:

- learn how to handle and navigate a book;
- look carefully at illustrations and notice details;
- talk about characters and events;
- predict what might happen next;
- retell a story in their own words;
- develop vocabulary, confidence and enjoyment of books.

When sharing a wordless book at home, encourage your child to tell you what they can see and what they think is happening. There is no single 'correct' way to tell the story – enjoy talking about the book together.

When will my child receive a book with words?

As children become secure in recognising the sounds they have been taught and are able to blend these sounds together to read simple words, they will begin to bring home a reading practice book with words. This will happen at different times for different children and that is completely expected in Reception.

The book your child receives will be carefully matched to their secure phonic knowledge. This means it should only contain sounds and words that they have already been taught and are ready to read.

Please do not worry if the book appears easy. This is intentional. The purpose of the home reading book is not to challenge children with unfamiliar words but to allow them to practise what they already know and develop accuracy, fluency and confidence.

Why might children have different books?

Reading develops at different rates, particularly at the beginning of Reception. Some children may be ready to blend words sooner, while others may need longer to secure their sounds and blending skills.

We continually assess children during phonics and reading sessions so that the book they receive is appropriate for their individual stage of reading development.

Children who need a little more support with blending will receive additional practice in school.

Reading the book at home

Your child will already have had experience of their reading book in school before it comes home. Therefore, when they read it to you, we want them to feel successful.

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Headteacher: Mrs J Slack

 **Learning Trust Alliance Teacher Training Teaching School Hub**

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Please:

- encourage your child to read or talk through the book;
- give them time to work things out;
- praise their effort and successes;
- talk together about the pictures, story and characters;
- keep the experience relaxed and positive.

If your child reads their book confidently, this is something to celebrate – it means the book is doing exactly what it is intended to do!

Our book routine

Reading books will be sent home each **Friday**.

Please keep the book at home for the week so that your child has opportunities to revisit and enjoy it. Books should be returned to school the following Friday, when your child will receive their next book.

Your child will also receive a reading record. You are very welcome to make a short note about your child's reading or anything you noticed while reading together, although there is no expectation for lengthy comments.

Above all, we want children to associate reading with success, enjoyment and special time sharing books with the adults around them.

Thank you for supporting us as we begin this exciting part of their Reception journey.

The Reception Team

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