



**HOLLYWELL
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Hollywell Primary School
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'Inspiring young minds to unlock their potential to grow.'

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Our school has chosen *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* as our systematic, synthetic phonics (SSP) programme to teach early reading and spelling.

Phonics is:

making connections between the sounds of our spoken words and the letters that are used to write them down.

Teaching Order

We usually teach four new sounds a week and have a review lesson on a Friday. You will get a list of the sounds that we are learning to have at home, which will help you with the formation and pronunciation. 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 (like the astronaut that you can see below) 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 read words during the phonics lesson that contain that new sound for the children to practice, we then go on to reading a sentence containing some of those words. We also have displays in the classroom and on the tables to support the children throughout the day.



How do we teach reading in books?

Reading practice sessions are:

- Timetabled three times a week
- Taught by a trained teacher or teaching assistant
- Taught in small groups



The children read the same book three times in a week. The first time we work on decoding (sounding out) the words, the second time we work on prosody which is reading with expression – making the book sound more interesting with our story-teller voice – and the third time we look at comprehension. We read the books three 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.

Assessment

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

Reading a book at the right level

This means that 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 – they should be able to do this on their own.

Reading at Home

The most important thing you can do is read with your child

Reading a book and chatting had a positive impact a year later for children's ability to...

- understand words and sentences
- use a wide range of vocabulary
- develop listening comprehension skills.

As well as the 'learning to read' book that your child will bring home they will also bring home a book (they may have two at times) for sharing with you. This book is so important. This is how we are going to give them the will to read. Please read with your child as often as you can – at least once a day if possible.

Listening to your child read their phonics book

- Your child should be able to read their book without your help.
- If they can't read a word read it to them.
- Talk about the book and celebrate their success.

Please ensure that your child's phonics book is in school every day as we will be using these in school.

Supporting your child with phonics

It is really important that you pronounce the sounds correctly at home if you are supporting your child. These videos are on the website for you to refer to and if you are unsure, please ask your child's teacher.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/> (this link will also be shared on the class page on the school website).

If you have any questions, please ask your child's class teacher.

Kind regards

Elizabeth Ellis

Head Teacher

