



Big Hearts, Open Minds

Clearwell Church of England Primary School

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Dear Parents

During the summer term, with the support of the Mangotsfield English Hub, we took the decision to change our phonics scheme to 'Little Wandle'. This means that the way we are teaching phonics from the start of this term is different to how it has previously been taught.

For parents of Year 1 and 2 children, the teaching order of the sounds is different, as are the rhymes to help with letter formation, and there is also the addition of many extra sounds that will be new to all our children. For the children in these year groups, we have been assessing each child individually over the last week, using the new scheme, to check phonic knowledge and decide on a suitable reading book. For some of these children, they will be bringing home a new reading book today. You may feel that this book is too easy, in comparison with the previous scheme, but there are three elements to reading that Little Wandle focuses on. These are decoding (sounding and blending words), prosody (reading with expression/intonation) and comprehension, and your child has been assessed on these areas. In school, your child will have three reading sessions each week, with the same book, and each session will focus one of these elements.

Your child should be able to read the book they bring home fluently, as they will have had these structured reading sessions. We will be assessing your child on a daily basis, but there will be a summative assessment each half-term to check on the progress they have made and to review which reading book they should move on to next.

For our new Reception children, we have started teaching single sounds this week, following our new scheme, and the children have really engaged with this. Children will soon start to bring home 'wordless' books in the first instance, and then progress to books with words.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. Psalm 119:105

The following information is from Little Wandle, for parents:

Supporting your child with reading

Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home.

There are two types of reading book that your child may bring home:

A reading practice book. This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently.

A sharing book. Your child will not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together.

Reading practice book

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.

Listen to them read 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.

Sharing 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!

The 'Sharing' book, is one that your child has chosen from our school library.

There is lots of information for parents on the Little Wandle website. The link for this is: www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/

There are some useful videos of the different sounds that we will be teaching and some useful information sheets to download, if you are interested.

The school has made a very large investment in training and purchasing the resources for this new programme, to allow us to deliver this new phonics scheme which will greatly benefit your child as it comes highly recommended and has proven results. We would ask you to please take care of the new books that are sent home and to return them each Friday to be changed. If books are damaged or lost, there will be a £5 charge which will cover part of the cost of each book.

We continue to ask you to do a minimum of three reads each week with your child and to write these in the yellow *'Reading Record'* which is checked on a Friday. They get three dojo points if they have done three reads, and also get a raffle ticket for each read. There is a half-termly raffle for each class, and the winner gets a book of their choice.

If you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to ask – it is new for all of us, and as a staff, we are taking this first term to really get the new routines of the scheme embedded with your child.

Many thanks

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Peters". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Karen Peters

KSI Teacher