



Warboys Primary Academy

A proud member of



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Dear Parents/Carers

Following Mr Mallott's letter about the transition to new teaching approaches, we are excited to share with you more information about our new phonics and early reading programme. As part of our evaluation of teaching and learning we recognised that our old phonics and reading programme was not having the impact we desired on the reading of our children.

From Easter staff have been training on our new systematic synthetic phonics (SSP) programme 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' and we are now in the position to roll out the programme across EYFS and KS1. We are in the process of reorganising our reading books and are pleased to announce we now have a full online library of matching texts.

Working through the Little Wandle programme will give children the phonetical knowledge they require, along with blending skills to develop fluency in their reading. Children need to learn to read as quickly as reasonably possible, so they can move from learning to read, to reading to learn.

Phonics in EYFS and Year 1

As usual, children in EYFS and Year 1 will continue to have daily phonics lessons. These will be taught as a whole class. The children will be introduced to 4 new grapheme phoneme correspondences (GPCs) per week and will have a review lesson on a Friday. Knowing a GPC means being able to match a phoneme (sound) to a grapheme (written representation) and vice versa. The children will also learn a series of 'tricky words'. Tricky words are those words which cannot be sounded out using their phonemes. The children are assessed every six weeks to check progress. Any child who needs extra support will have additional keep up sessions planned for them.

Year 2 +

Year 2 will follow the Little Wandle spellings programme which builds on the child's phonetical knowledge acquired during EYFS and Year 1 and introduces spellings patterns. Any child in Year 2 and above who requires further teaching of phonics, will have additional support through our catch-up intervention in small groups. Any child on an intervention will have additional assessments every 3 weeks to ensure that the programme is being delivered at the right level and pace as appropriate to them.

Reading

Children will have 3 reading practice sessions a week in small groups. We are reorganising our books to enable us to read a wider range of fiction and non-fiction books at the correct level for the children. The book selected for your child will be carefully matched to their phonetical knowledge. The children will be practising their application of their phonetical knowledge and will be developing fluency and automaticity in reading.

The three sessions a week will be timetabled and will be taught by a trained member of staff. The children will be taught in small groups and will read the same book three times.

Session 1 – the children will work on decoding (sounding out) the words

Session 2 – the children will work on prosody. Prosody is reading with expression, making the book sound more interesting using a storyteller voice for fiction or an informative voice (like David Attenborough) for a non-fiction book

Session 3 - we will look at comprehension

We will read the book three times in school because we want children to develop fluency. The more the children see the words the more they begin to read them automatically without having to sound them out. Once the three reading sessions have been completed in school the children will be allocated the book on our new online library so they can celebrate their ability to read the book at home.

More information will follow on the online library as we set up accounts for each child.

Children in Year 2 will move on to fluency books once they have shown they can read with the full range of GPCs taught. Fluency books will not be shared at home, but the children will move on to accelerated reader as an additional focus on developing comprehension of texts.

Year 1 children will no longer be moved on to the accelerated reader system. Our new SSP programme and accompanying texts will give the children opportunities to develop fluency as they learn a greater number of alternative GPCs. Any child who has already moved on to accelerated reader will remain but will also read phonics books that will challenge their knowledge of alternative GPCs.

Love of Reading

Children will still be able to bring home a love of reading book to supplement their phonics book. We know that not every child has been taking this book home. These books are a book to share together and develop your child's love of reading to encourage them to be a lifelong reader. Mr Duncan has expanded the range of books in each classroom for this and we will be encouraging the children to change this book as regularly as they like.

Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this book 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 nonfiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

What next?

We will no longer be changing the phonetical books that are currently in children's book bags. These will be collected in and children will begin to be allocated online books.

There may be a short period of time without a phonetical book as we transition from one system to another – further details on the online library, user names and passwords will be sent out as soon as possible.

Little Wandle Letters and sounds have a parent section on their website which will support anyone who requires further information.

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continued: -

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Continue to share and enjoy books with your child as we transition.

Go to the library and/or encourage your child to change their love of reading book.

Look out for a parent information evening where further information will be shared on our new SSP.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Beccy Roebuck

Phonics and Early Reading Lead