



Head Teacher. Neil Reilly  
Deputy Head Teacher. Nick File

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are excited to tell you about our new phonics and reading resources for EYFS and KS1. We have purchased resources from the DfE recommended Little Wandle scheme to support our phonics teaching and new reading books to go alongside it.

Phonics is the method schools use to teach children to read the sounds in words. It helps children to learn to read quickly and skilfully and is an essential part of early education.

There are a couple of changes that you will notice when your child brings home a reading book from school:

- All new reading books are **fully decodable** using a phonic approach
- Your child's reading book will be closely matched to the phonics sounds and tricky words that they have already been taught and are demonstrating a **secure** knowledge of

This approach ensures that children are successful when they apply existing phonic knowledge to the text. They do not have to rely on guessing or using other less efficient clues such as the picture or grammatical context. This should increase their reading fluency (the speed and flow) and in turn, their confidence and understanding of what they have read.

We are aiming for children to be able to read the new books at **95% accuracy** – this means only making one error for every twenty words read. This will be their '**show off**' book! To achieve this, children will need to **read the same book several times**, both at home and in school, before moving onto the next book.

Once children's reading skills have progressed beyond our phonics scheme, they will begin the **Accelerated Reader programme**. This is usually when they are proficient at Lime book band (around the end of year 2). Books continue to be organised into coloured book bands and are linked to your child's Zone of Proximal Development (ZPD) score to ensure children are accessing texts that are sufficiently challenging.

It is really important that children learn to read as well as developing a love of reading by sharing books and being read to. It is really important to read with your children for at least 10 minutes every day. Please sign the reading record every time you listen to your child read at home.

Your child's teacher is busy assessing your child to make sure that they have a decodable book that they are confident to read. This may take some time to ensure that the books are a suitable match, so please bear with us. It may appear that your child has been 'moved down' a colour band but please don't worry. As we introduce the new scheme, we need to ensure that your child is completely confident with all of the letters and words in the book, quickly identify any gaps and then they will continue reading books matched to their current phonic phase. Most of the decodable reading books have letters and words to practise inside the front cover before you start reading and comprehension activities to do at the back. Repetition of these activities helps to build confidence and ultimately a love of reading.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Stainsby and Mrs Pearson