



St Osyth C of E Primary School

A member of the Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust
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Friday 27th January 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have recently adopted a new approach to teaching phonics in reception and years 1 and 2. The scheme, which is based on our pre-existing scheme of Letters and Sounds, is called Little Wandle Phonics.

Our teachers and support staff have begun these lessons with real gusto and enthusiasm and so far, the children seem to be really enjoying the new approach to their lessons.

This scheme is a government approved 'Systematic, Synthetic, Phonics' programme and ensures consistency of teaching and pace across all classes and a smooth transition into our spelling programme – taught in years 2 – 6.

Each lesson is broken into three parts:

- The teaching of tricky words and the rehearsal of prior learning of phonemes. A phoneme is a single unit of sound, for example c, d, r.
- The teaching of a new sound. This could be a single letter, a digraph (two letters), or a trigraph (three letters), depending on the phase of phonics that your child is learning.
- The blending and segmenting of words. The children learn to break down a word – for example: dog – d,o,g or sight – s, igh,t into their sounds and then learn to blend the words together – for example- c,a,t – cat. Or, p,l,ay – play.

The children then take part in a ten-minute reading session using suitably matched books. They practice the sound that they have been learning, and also their blending and segmenting skills. The tricky words that are not phonetically decodable will also appear in these books. The children will read these books in school everyday for one week to practice:

- Decoding – the skill of reading the words.
- Comprehension – the understanding of what is written in the text, or is suggested in the book. This also develops inference skills -reading between the lines.
- Prosody – the skill of reading with intonation and expression.

At the end of this week, the children will bring their book home to practice with you for the following week. They will also be given a 'reading for pleasure book', which is a book for you to share together. It is unlikely that your child would be able to read it alone. We hope that this book will enthuse your child's love for reading, and hope that you will enjoy this time together!

As of today, reading books will be changed on a Friday. Please ensure that books are returned to school on a Friday.

As a school, we hope that Little Wandle – coupled with really good teaching, will make your children even better readers!

Please speak to your child's class teacher if you would like any more information.

Have a great weekend.

Kind regards,

Mrs Levett.

Deputy Headteacher