Nacton Church of England Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs Gemma Taylor

The Street, Nacton, Ipswich IP10 0EU
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Monday 11th December 2023

Dear Families,

RE: Little Wandle Phonics and Early Reading

We love reading and believe every child can become a fluent reader. Reading opens doors and inspires imagination. Learning to read fluently means a child can access the full curriculum and will help them to become an independent learner.

The purpose of this letter is to talk you through our approach and introduce some changes from January 2024.

Phonics

The fundamental tool for reading is Phonics. We follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds phonics program, with children in Reception through to Year 2 having daily phonics sessions to embed these skills. We teach phonics for around 30 minutes a day in Key Stage 1, building from shorter sessions at the beginning of Reception. In Year 2, phonics sessions become more spelling focused as the year goes on.

Reading at school

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will take part in Reading Practice Sessions using books published for Little Wandle which are matched to the children's secure phonic knowledge. These sessions are:

- Timetabled 3 times a week
- Taught by trained staff
- Taught in small groups

Each reading practice session has a clear focus so that the demands of the session do not overload children's working memory. The same book is read three times a week. The first time with a focus on decoding (sounding out) the words, the second time prosody, which is

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reading with expression and the third time comprehension. We read the book three times in school because we want the children to develop fluency. The more children see words, the more they begin to read them automatically without having to sound them out. In Year 2 and 3, we continue to teach reading in this way for any children who still need to practise reading with decodable books.

Reading at Home

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 book your child will read at home:

1. **A Little Wandle book**
2. **A Love of Reading book**

Books will be changed in school every Friday.

Little Wandle book	Love of Reading book
This book will be the same book they have used in their reading practice session in school. This book is at the correct phonic stage for your child. **The aim is for them to read this both fluently and independently**. By reading the book more than once, an early reader will move more confidently from decoding words to recognizing and reading the whole word. Remember it is not a race to try and get to harder books, re-reading the same book has been found to greatly improve fluency and reading skills. This is a **research-based approach** to build confidence.	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!**

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Little Wandle Home Reading Books: The e-catalogue

The Little Wandle books can be accessed through the Big Cat e-catalogue. Log in details for your child will be found in the front of their reading diary from January. The e-book subscription is to ensure we always have the correct books in school for our reading sessions at all times. Maintaining fidelity to the Little Wandle scheme is paramount to its success. Because of this we cannot use any other reading scheme to supplement it. Therefore, no other phonics based reading books will be sent home from January. Instead we are asking for all our parents to access the Little Wandle books through the e-catalogue.

We do not currently have physical copies of Little Wandle home reading books. The reality is that purchasing a full set will cost around £3,000. However, if you feel your child needs a physical Little Wandle book because they are unable to access the e-book we will be purchasing a small amount. **If you feel your child is the exception for a valid reason please opt in for a physical book at the following link and we can ensure they are resourced appropriately:**
https://forms.office.com/e/9vYPQ5DWW1

I am asking all parents to please support the use of e-books for the whole of Spring term. We will then review and take feedback at the start of Summer term.

The Reading Record

We will continue to use the Reading Records to note your child's assigned books. It is important to us that the record is easy for families to complete so please leave a short comment in the record to let us know your child has read. Please make a record of Little Wandle books read on the left hand page and Love of Reading on the right hand side. A new reading record will be sent home in January for a fresh start.

Further support

On 18th January 2023 at 5pm Miss Smith and Mrs Beasley will be leading a presentation about early reading and phonics to which you are warmly invited. Please be aware this will be a repeat of an earlier session Miss Smith ran with Tiger class parents in September.

Further support for parents is available through the Little Wandle website here:

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https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/#tabnametabSupportForPhonics

Please continue to enjoy time with your child as they share their increasing skills with you.

Thank you for your continued support,

Gemma Taylor
Headteacher