

Phonics At WIS

Which scheme do we use?

We use a validated phonics scheme called '**Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised**'. This is a thorough, rigorous programme which teaches the children the skills they need to read. The programme provides a full progression through all commonly occurring letters and the sounds they make, working from simple to more complex, and taking into account the frequency of their occurrence in the most commonly encountered words.

We have also purchased new 'Collins Big Cat' early reading books which are fully decodable and are closely matched to the phonics scheme. These books are called the children's 'reading practice books'. More information about 'Little Wandle' is available via the link below.

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

How is it taught?

All children have a whole class phonics (or spelling) lesson every single day. This lesson is carefully designed to challenge the children and provide regular repeated practice.

All the letters and sounds taught are practised in words, sentences, and in fully decodable books called 'reading practice books'. Children review and revise letters and the sounds they make as well as words and sentences. This happens daily, weekly, and across terms and years, in order to move this knowledge into their long-term memory.

Some children may also be given additional support to help them keep up with the class. In year 2, the children transition from reading practice books to colour banded books.

What is a 'reading practice' session?

The children will read a 'reading practice book' three times per week in a small group at school. In the first of these sessions the children work on decoding, in the second they work on prosody (expression and intonation) and in the final session they work on their comprehension. They will then take their reading practice book home to 'show off' their fantastic reading to you. The reading practice book will be so closely matched to your child's phonics knowledge that they will be able to read the book fluently and independently. We are aiming for the children to read 95% of their 'reading practice book' automatically. Please bear this in mind if you find yourself wondering, 'Is this book too easy?' Although your child will be taught to read at school, you will have a huge impact on their reading by continuing their practice at home. Listen to them read their reading practice book as often as possible. Remember to give them lots of praise and celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them.

How can you support?

There are many ways to support your child:

- Please make sure that they read their reading practice book as often as possible and give your child lots of praise.
- Please also make sure that you read your child's 'sharing book' to them so that they learn to love books and reading.
- Please take very good care of your child's books, particularly their 'reading practice book' as they are very expensive to replace.
- If a book should go missing or get damaged, a donation for a replacement would be greatly appreciated.