



Wednesday 30th March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Changes to how we teach Reading at Thomas Whitehead C of E Academy.

We have recently purchased a new reading scheme called Little Wandle Letters and Sounds, to bring our reading approaches/schemes in line with the new guidance about how to teach children to read. Little Wandle Letters and Sounds is a systematic synthetic phonics (SSP) programme.

There are two types of reading books that your child will have access to;

- **A reading practice book- Collins Big Cat.** This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. This book is available as an ebook and you will be able to access it at <http://ebooks.collinsopenpage.com/>
You will receive a parent guide for this, which will provide your child's username and password
- **A sharing book.** Your child may not be able to read this book on their own, as it is not fully decodable and may not match their exact phonics level. This book is for both of you to read and enjoy together.

The reading practice book: Big Cat Books (ebook)

This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading with a little help, please do not worry that it is too easy- your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading. Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise- celebrate their success! If they cannot read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.

As part of our homework policy, we recommend that you read for 10-15 minutes each night. Please can you continue to record this reading session in their reading record.

The Sharing Book: Oxford Reading Tree, Songbirds, Storyworld, Project X, Rocket Phonics or Library book.

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 should not 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 characters and explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

Support for parents.

These three videos (link below) show you how to pronounce the sounds. Notice how the children do not add an 'uh' sound at the end, so they say 't' not 'tuh'. Use the downloadable information to help your child remember how to write the letters and say their sounds.

Further support can be found via this link <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

The resources on the above link will also help support your child with saying their sounds and writing their letters.



How we teach Phonics and Reading

The videos on the page will demonstrate how we teach your child specific aspects of phonics and reading in class.

Teaching Handwriting.

To bring our handwriting scheme in line with the new SSP programme, we will be teaching non-cursive handwriting in Reception and Year 1. The cursive approach will be introduced in Year 2.

Changes to how we teach Reading in Year 2.

If your child ends Year 1 on the Big Cat books on Bookband Orange Level or below, they will continue reading the Big Cat books, which are fully decodable, in Year 2. When they have finished the Orange Bookband reading books, Oxford Reading Tree books will be added to the choice of readers and matched to the appropriate level. The children will be given a reading book in school and they will now read this book at home as well. Please make sure you complete your child's reading record, each time they read.

Reading in Key Stage 2

At present the children in KS2 have a reading book, which they read both at school and at home. They also have access to a library book.

As part of our homework policy, we recommend that children read for 15 minutes or longer each night. Please make sure that you or your child completes their reading record, each time they read. When they have finished their book and it needs changing, they can alert their teacher and change their book.

Please talk to your child and ask questions about the following things when you listen to them read.

- Draw inferences, such as inferring characters' thoughts, feelings and motives and finding evidence in the text of this.
- Predict what might happen from details stated and implied.
- Identify main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph and summarise these.
- Identify how language, structure and presentation can contribute towards meaning.
- Retrieve information from the text
- Participate in discussion about the books they have read.
- Discuss words, phrases and new vocabulary.

Yours faithfully

M Short