
Phonics and Early Reading

Essential and important information for parents on recent changes and how to help at home.

8 October 2021

Why learning to read is so important



- Reading is essential for your child's future academic achievement, well-being and success in life.
 - Good reading, writing and language development is essential.
 - Children who struggle to read struggle in all subjects.
 - Enjoying reading and choosing to read have social and emotional benefits for children.
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Why are we changing how we teach reading at Burlington?

- We have a strong track record of teaching phonics and reading well with good scores in the Year 1 Phonics Screening check.
 - The Letters and Sounds Programme we currently use is being phased out as it is not a validated scheme.
 - Reading Framework published making changes to the way reading is taught.
 - Ofsted's focus on early reading and phonics.
 - Lockdown has resulted in gaps.
 - We are committed to high quality teaching and supporting all children to become confident readers and writers.
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Components of Reading



- Comprehension:
 - Focus on learning vocabulary, Key texts, Power of Reading, Book talk (discussions and questions), Comprehension characters, Whole Class Guided Reading.
 - Reading for Pleasure:
 - Library, Daily Storytime, Little Free Library, Reading Den, Beanstalk Readers, Mystery Readers, Book Fairs, Visiting Authors, Book week celebrations, The Reading Tree.
 - Word Reading:
 - Phonics and practising reading
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What is phonics?



- The way to teach children how to read and spell words. It helps children hear, identify and use different sounds that distinguish one word from another in the English language.
 - Written language can be compared to a code, so knowing the sounds of individual letters and how those letters sound when they're combined will help children decode words as they read and know which letters to use when they are writing words.
 - Phonics involves matching the sounds of spoken English with individual letters or groups of letters. For example, the sound *k* can be spelled as *c* (cat), *k*, or *ck* (kick).
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Our New Phonics Programme

‘Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised’ is a complete systematic synthetic phonics programme.

- Which Year Groups?
 - Reception, Year 1 and Autumn term of Year 2.
 - When will we start it?
 - After October half term
 - What does it involve?
 - 5 whole class phonics lessons per week including revising taught Grapheme Phoneme Correspondances (GPCs) learning new ones, blending to read and segmenting to spell.
 - 3 reading sessions per week in a group of 6 children
 - Additional support and reading sessions for children who need it.
 - Reading at home with your support.
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What parents need to know about phonics

- How to say the phonic sounds



Phase 2 sounds taught in
Reception Autumn 1



Phase 2 sounds taught in
Reception Autumn 2



Phase 3 sounds taught in
Reception Spring 1

- How to blend phonic sounds to read words.



How we teach blending

What parents need to know about phonics cont....

- Some phonics jargon:
 - grapheme, phoneme, GPC, tricky word, trigraph, digraph



How we teach tricky words

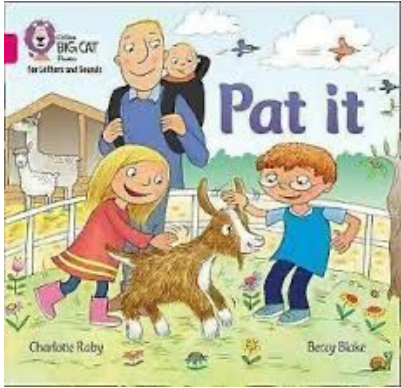
- What tricky words are and how we teach them.
 - What fluency is.
 - Reading a text aloud accurately with expression and pace that shows your child understands what they are reading.
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What is taught when?

- A progression overview is available on the website. This link will be sent to you by email and in the Newsletter.
https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Programme-Overview_Reception-and-Year-1.pdf
- Your teacher will keep you updated throughout the year and let you know what is being taught each half term.
- Example:
Reception

Autumn 1 Phase 2 graphemes	New tricky words
s a t p i n m d g o c k c k e u r h b f l	is I the
Autumn 2 Phase 2 graphemes	New tricky words
ff ll ss j v w x y z zz qu ch sh th ng nk <ul style="list-style-type: none">• words with –s /s/ added at the end (hats sits)• words ending –s /z/ (his) and with –s /z/ added at the end (bags)	put* pull* full* as and has his her go no to into she push* he of we me be

Reading at school



- Children will read a fully decodable book at school three times a week.
 - First to practise decoding the words
 - Second, to build fluency (using expression, pace and understanding)
 - Thirdly for comprehension.
 - Some children may read 5 times a week to help them keep up.
 - The school has bought new sets of Big Cat books for Little Wandle Letters and Sounds in order to do this.
 - These books are replicated in the ebook library you can access from home.
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We need your help with reading at home

- Children will take home three physical books a week.

A self - chosen Library book or book from their classroom for you to read to them

A non-decodable 'Reading for Pleasure' book for you to share. They may know some words but they are not expected to read it by themselves as it will have sounds and words they have not been taught to read yet.

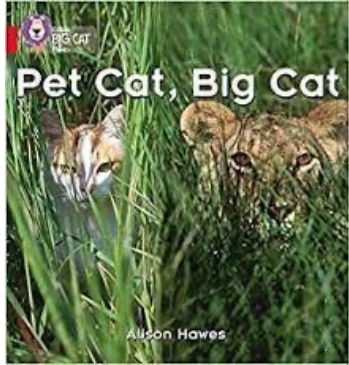
A fully decodable reading book with only sounds and words that they have been taught to read. These sounds are displayed on stickers on the front.

- Ebooks to read at home

You will soon receive a login for the Little Wandle ebook library. Your child will be allocated the decodable book or books they have read at school that week to practise at home.



Reading the decodable book and ebook



- Children will read books in a progressive sequence until they can decode unfamiliar words confidently.
 - Encourage your child to use their phonic knowledge and blending skills.
 - Help them spot tricky words.
 - Reread the book to develop fluency
 - Talk about the book afterwards.
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Reading for Pleasure - the non-decodable book and self-chosen book

- Read to your child:
 - It is very important to encourage a love of books by reading the book your child has chosen from the school Library or their classroom.
 - Share a book with your child:
 - The **non-decodable 'Reading for Pleasure'** book is for you to read together. Your child should be able to read some words but they are not expected to read it all independently. These are books that used to be in our reading scheme.
 - Use lots of voices, use expression, talk about the pictures and predict what might happen next. Help them learn new words and discuss the book. Ask them lots of questions.
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How will we know which decodable book to give your child?



- Little Wandle provides assessments which we use to check which tricky words and graphemes your child knows and whether they can spot them and blend them in words.
 - They will then be given a book with only the graphemes and tricky words they are secure in.
 - At the beginning they may be allocated a book with no words. Encourage telling stories through pictures.
 - Books will no longer be allocated by colour band (although the old colour stickers will still be on them).
 - Books will have stickers on them to show which phonic phase they relate to.
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What happens if my child's reading ability is ahead of what they are being taught in phonics?

- They will still be taught in the class Phonics lesson as they need to be secure in the phonics to help them learn to spell and decode unfamiliar words when reading.
- We will assess their phonic knowledge and ask them to read the decodable books only with those phonemes that they are secure in. They will still also have the 'Reading for Pleasure' books.
- Once a child is secure in all the GPCs in the programme and can read fluently with expression, they can be allocated books for fluency. This is normally in the Autumn term of Year 2.





What to expect

- A login for the Big Cat Collins **ebook** library. Books will be allocated after half term.
 - From Monday 11th October we will start sending **non-decodable 'Reading for Pleasure'** books home for you to share.
 - Phonics assessments will take place in class from the 11th October. Once we have assessed the children we will start sending home **decodable reading books**.
 - Phonics lessons using the new scheme will begin after half term in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. They will be slightly out of sequence with the dates in Little Wandles progression. Year 2 will be teaching the last term of the Year 1 progression.
 - Nursery will continue to use Phase 1 of Letters and Sounds for now.
 - Year 2 children will be taught from this new scheme until they are ready to move on. For most, it will be at the end of the autumn.
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Book change and Reading Records



- Please keep filling in the Reading record at least three times a week to let us know the books have been read and any positive comments or concerns.
 - Your class teacher will let you know which day the books should be returned every week.
 - Please return all the books weekly. £5 fine for books not returned within 2 weeks.
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Further information and any questions

- The Parent pages on the Little Wandle website has lots of information, guides and videos.

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

- If you have any questions please talk to your teacher or email me via the office admin@burlingtoni.org.uk

Thank you for listening!

Mrs Davies

Reading Lead
