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12th January 2022

Dear parents/carers,

As you are aware we implemented a new phonics scheme "Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised." At our Phonics workshop in the Autumn term, we expressed how important it is that children have plenty of practice reading at home in order to become fluent, confident readers. Your support is needed to help your child practise reading and develop fluency with a book they have already read at school. Previously, we have assigned each child's reading book via e-book. However, in listening to parents' feedback this has proved rather challenging for many in accessing the texts and/or devices and feel a physical book would be much more effective in order to practice reading at home. Books will still be available by e-book, with your child's library building overtime so they may revisit books previously sent home.

Schools should provide a balance of books to send home for early readers, for this reason we will send home:

- a reading practice book matched to the child's phonic stage that they can read independently
- a sharing book that they can talk about and enjoy with their parent/carer.

The reading practice book will be matched to your child's phonic stage and be fully decodable. If books are sent home that the child cannot decode, it will lead to frustration for your child and yourselves.

To ensure that reading at home is an enjoyable experience and does not feel like a chore, every Friday we will send home a reading practice book which your child can read at least 95% of the words which they have shared in their group reading sessions that week. It does not have to be a different book every time; it may need to be the same book if your child still needs to develop fluency. The children should be able to read the practice book with developing confidence and fluency without any significant help. The parent/carer's role is to listen with interest and, most importantly, to encourage and praise, enthusiastically acknowledging the child's achievement (even if, at the early stages, this is only small). After the child has read the book, it may be helpful to talk about the book, but only so far as the child is interested. The parent/carer should keep the experience positive. It would be useful if you could continue to record reading in your child's reading diary and we welcome any comments.

Resources the books to ensure all children have access is a costly process. Please ensure care is taken with the books and they are returned every Friday. A cost will be passed onto the parent for any lost books to enable us to replace them for other children to use. Thank you for your continued support. If you have any further question, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely

Helen Hunt

Headteacher

Cassandra Cook

Class Teacher, SENDCo, Phonics Lead

