

Dear Parents

In September we changed how we teach phonics at school. We have now moved to a scheme called Little Wandle. Children will still receive daily phonics teaching. There will be a few small changes that you may notice. These changes are outlined below.

Flashcards

Children will learn up to four phonic sounds per week during phonics lessons. Each child in Reception and in Year 1 will take home flashcard strips with the sounds they learned during the week. Please look at these sounds with your child at home every day. We will continue to look through flashcards in school, but we will not be ticking them as we have been. Flashcards will be updated at the end of the week with the new sounds added and the old sounds removed.

There is an example of a flashcard below. It has the sound and a picture relating to the sound. A phrase to help with pronunciation and a phrase to help with formation. Feel free to get your child to have a go at writing and saying the letter sound. You can read the formation phrase for the child to follow. When children are writing we encourage them to form letters correctly from the beginning. This allows children to develop good handwriting habits from the very beginning of school.

Grapheme and Mnemonic



Picture Card



Pronunciation Phrase

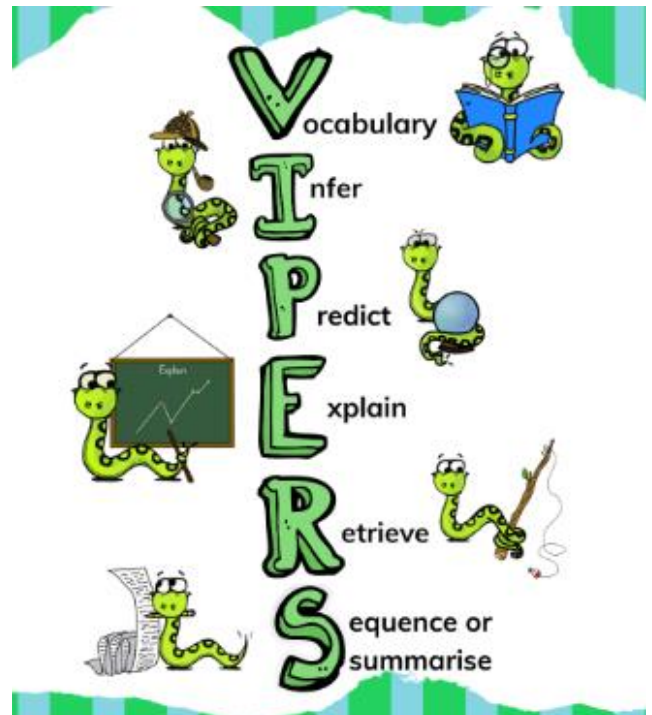
Pull your lips back and make the i sound at the back of your mouth
i i i

Formation Phrase

Down the iguana and dot the leaf.

Reading In School

From September you may find that your child may not read one to one with an adult as often as they have been previously. Instead, children will be completing up to three, small group, guided reading sessions a week in school. We will still listen to children read individually. We will carry out regular assessments of children's phonics and reading ability to ensure they are reading a book from the correct level. Once a child is reading accelerated reader books they will no longer be taking part in small group guided reading sessions. Instead, they will have whole class reading sessions. During the sessions children will focus on the skills of vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and sequence. The children will talk about these skills as 'vipers' skills.



Guided Reading Session

During guided reading children will read a book in a small group with an adult. The adult will ensure that they hear all children read during these sessions. Guided reading sessions will focus on children's ability to recognise phonic sounds in the book, the children's understanding of what happens in the text and the ability to read clearly, fluently with good expression. We will write the date and "guided reading" in children's reading diary when they have had a guided reading session. This will allow you to know how frequently your child is reading in school.

Reading at Home

Children will continue to bring a reading book home. This will not be the guided reading book that they have been reading in school. Instead, it will be a colour levelled book or an accelerated reader book. These are the type of books that children have already been bringing home from school.

When we move children up to a new book level to take home, we will ensure that your child can read books from their level 'fluently'. We will decide a child is reading fluently when:

- They can read 90% of words without sounding the words out (i.e. reading 9 out of 10 words either by sight or sounding out quickly in their head) when reading books at green level or above.
- If they read at a good pace. This is approximately 60 words per minute by the end of Year 1, 90 words per minute by the end of Year 2. Children in Reception will be reading slower than this.
- Can the child talk about and understand what they are reading.

We will only move a child up when we are confident that they have met all the above criteria for reading with fluency.

In KS1 we ask for parents to read with their children as often as possible at home. Please write in your child's reading diary every time they have read.

We ask for children reading 'colour level' books to read their books twice before changing them. This allows children to develop their reading fluency and their understanding of the text before changing it. Children on accelerated reader reading books only need to read their book once as these books tend to be longer.

Children will continue to take home a 'story book' where possible. This book is for parents to read and enjoy with their children. Children are not expected to be able to read their story book themselves. This is simply to give the children an opportunity to choose a book to take home and enjoy looking at with a family member. Children will have the opportunity to change their story book weekly.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this. We think this will be a positive change and will allow children to make greater progress with their reading.

Thanks to all the parents who have volunteered to read with children in school. It makes such a difference to have this support. We are always looking for additional volunteers. Please let us know if you or a family member would like to volunteer to listen to readers in school.

Thanks

Mrs Cross