



# **Scargill CofE Primary School**

## **Phonics and Reading Information for Reception and KS1 Parents**

We wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the teaching of early reading at Scargill Primary School. Early reading simply means the stage of reading where children are learning to become fluent readers through the use of phonics. The government have recently introduced a number of changes regarding the teaching of early reading and this will mean a few changes to how we do things in school.

This year, we are going to be using some exciting new resources from an organisation called 'Little Wandle'. Those of you who follow our Twitter feed may already have seen some tweets about this. We will be using these resources to teach phonics and reading from Reception to Year 2. It will mean some changes in the books that children are bringing home to read and share with you. Each child will bring home 2 books: a reading practice book and a sharing book.

**The reading practice book:** These books can be distinguished by a logo on the front cover that says 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised'. This book will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level and they will have read it 3 times already in school in their group reading sessions. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't 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 can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together but only as far as your child is interested. On the inside front and back covers you will find helpful guidance for each book.

**This book will be sent home on Thursdays and must be returned to school the following Thursday.** PLEASE LOOK AFTER OUR BRAND NEW BOOKS! We have invested thousands of pounds in these new books. More importantly, the books are in sets and will be used the following week with a new group of children and we must ensure we have enough copies for each child. Unfortunately, we will have to charge you £4.50 for the cost of a replacement book for any that are lost or returned damaged.

*RECEPTION PARENTS: Until your child can blend sounds to read words, they will bring home a wordless book to share with you. Please help your child to use the pictures to talk about what is happening and encourage them to make up their own stories. Have fun imagining and creating ideas together!*

**The sharing (library) book:** If children are to become lifelong readers, it is essential that they are encouraged to read for pleasure. The desire to read will help with the skill of reading. To help foster a love of reading, the children will bring home a book that they can share and enjoy with someone at home. Your child is not expected to read this book independently. It is a book they have chosen for you to read to or enjoy with them and repeated readings will bring even more benefits and enjoyment. These books offer a wealth of opportunities for talking about the pictures

and enjoying the story. Predict what will happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun together!

These books can be changed by the children in the classroom library as often as the children want when they first come into school in the morning.

### How often should I hear my child read?

As often as you can! We expect you to hear them read a minimum of 3 times a week, but short sessions each day is ideal. Research shows that reading regularly at home has a significant positive impact on children's development in reading.

### What happens when my child is secure with phonics?

At some point towards the end of Year 1 or during Year 2, many children move away from phonics based reading books although the point at which this happens varies hugely. Once your child is ready to move onto books which aren't fully decodable, they will move onto our 'book banded' reading books in place of the reading practice book. These have coloured stickers on them and start at Purple then Gold, White and Lime. A child at age related expectations by the end of Year 2 should be reading books at White level fluently and also be able to answer comprehension questions confidently. Your child will change their own books whenever a new one is needed.

### Comprehension – Meet the Gang!

Once children are able to read fluently, we begin to focus more on their understanding of the texts they read. At Scargill, we use the VIPERS approach to help us develop a range of comprehension skills.

V – vocabulary

I – inference

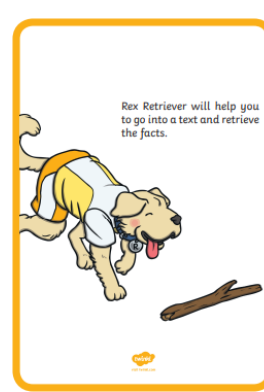
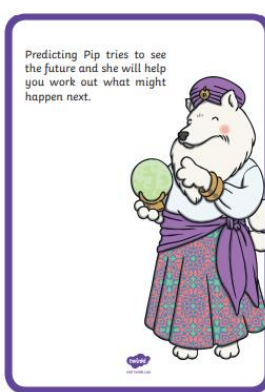
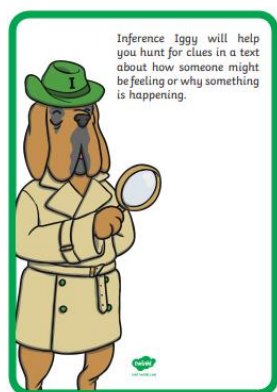
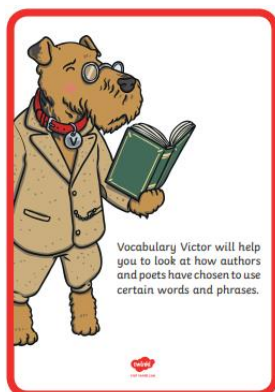
P – prediction

E – explaining

R – retrieval

S - sequencing

In KS1 we use some characters called 'The Totally Pawsome Gang' to engage the children with this important part of learning to read. You can find many helpful resources on the website [www.twinkl.co.uk](http://www.twinkl.co.uk) You will find a bookmark in your child's reading folder that has useful questions to ask your child based on these comprehension skills. It is vital that children on the book banded books are developing their comprehension skills and understand what they are reading.



### How do I communicate with school about my child's reading?

Your child will bring home a reading record. We would encourage you to make a brief note after you have shared either of the books with your child at home (or a different book from home or the public library). Please note these books are not checked daily by teachers so if you have any concerns about your child's reading, please contact the teacher via the department email.

### Read a Rainbow



In Year 1 and Year 2 we challenge our children to 'read a rainbow'. Your child will bring home a red bookmark (the first colour of the rainbow). Each time they read or share a book with an adult at home, they can colour in one of the segments on the reading caterpillar. When they have completed a full bookmark they will

have read 25 times. Your child will need to let their teacher know it is complete and they will get a certificate and move onto the next rainbow colour and so on. Each classroom also has a reading rainbow display and they will move their name onto the corresponding colours. PLEASE NOTE – colour one segment each time they spend time reading or sharing a book with an adult, not one segment per book. We suggest you stick the bookmark inside the cover of the reading record and then they won't get lost.



If you would like to know more about how we will be teaching early reading, there are lots of videos and information sheets available on the Little Wandle website:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/my-letters-and-sounds/engaging-parents/>

Please do not hesitate to get in touch should you have any questions or queries.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Miss Marshall-Clarke

Year 2 Teacher and EYFS/KS1 English Lead