

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are sharing some exciting news about our new phonics programme, 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised.' All school staff have been fully trained in how to use this and we can't wait to get started in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2! If you want to know more, check out the 'For Parents' section on the Little Wandle website. A link can be found on our school website or at www.littlewandleletterandsounds.org.uk

So, what does this mean for you and your child?

Reception have already started to learn new graphemes (letters) and the sounds they make (phonemes). Reception children start on 'Phase 2'. A link to the Phase 2 grapheme information sheet can be found on the website. For those children who are starting to blend some sounds together to read words, a phonically decodable book will be sent home each week. This should be around Week 4. This is because children need to be taught and be secure in recognising and blending GPCs (grapheme-phoneme correspondence) before they can get started with reading accurately.

Year 1 have all been assessed during Weeks 1 and 2 and are currently starting to revisit and revise Phases 3 and 4. This means not only recognising the graphemes and the corresponding sounds, but also being able to read fluently (without sounding out and blending) words with those graphemes in. Phonetically decodable reading books will be sent home by the end of Week 4.

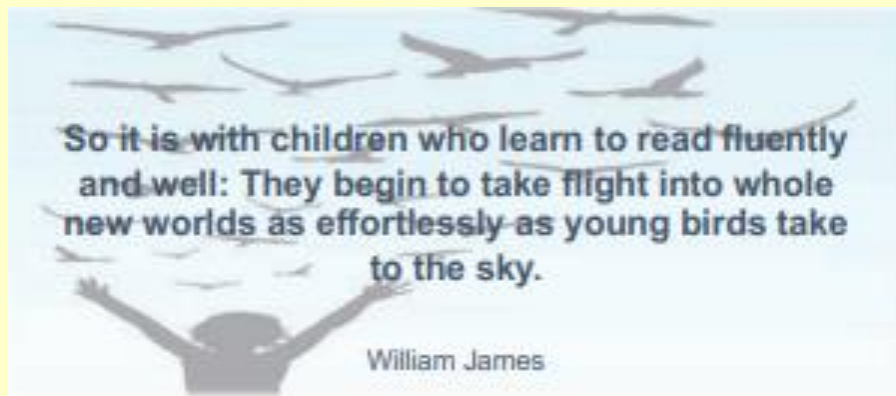
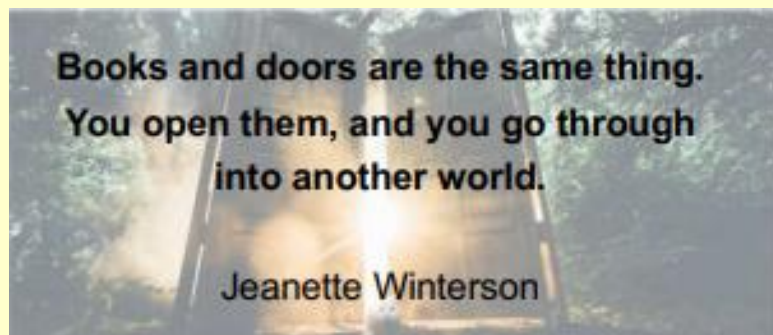
Year 2 have also all been assessed during Weeks 1 and 2 and are busy revising and consolidating Phase 5 in order to ensure they are secure and able to pass the Phonics Screening Check which is due to take place in the Autumn Term. In Year 2, most children will be sent home with a phonetically decodable book to practise the GPCs they are secure with. Once children are secure with Phase 5 phonics, they will then progress onto our Book Banded reading books at Purple level, progressing to Gold, White and Lime throughout Year 2. These children will bring home a book banded book (it should have a colour sticker on it!) from Monday. These books can be changed by the children themselves in the classroom.

What is a phonetically decodable book?

A phonetically decodable book is one which only contains words that your child is able to sound out and blend, or read fluently, with the exception of one or two tricky words. They are very closely matched to the correct Phase your child has been assessed as being secure with. These books will have been read by your child 3 times in school during group reading sessions before being sent home for them to

practise further. Your child will be able to read them with 95% accuracy at this point. They will be changed once a week.

Further information about how we teach reading, the different types of reading books and expectations for home reading will be sent home in the next couple of weeks. Our new phonics programme has a different approach to which books are sent home and when, which is why your child hasn't yet brought one home. Please do not panic! We are teaching your child to read in school. At home, the best way to support your child is to read with them and to them for pleasure. We strive for all our children to develop a love of reading and this is where you can make the most difference.



Many thanks,

Miss Marshall-Clarke

English and Phonics Lead