

13th June 2022

Dear Parents/Carers of children in Robins and Doves

SUPPORTING EARLY READING – Crucial for school success

Welcome back to the summer term. I am writing to introducing you to our new phonics scheme that we have launched called '**Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised**'. This new scheme will support early reading for children at Houghton Conquest Lower School and will support your child to build fluency and consistency to their reading from an early age.

There is an informative website that you can use to familiarise yourself with the scheme or get more information.

Website Link: <http://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

As the children learn new graphemes (*the written sound*) they will learn a catchphrase to match the sounds. These become even more important when we start learning alternative spellings for the same grapheme; for example:-

- ur – as in 'fur'
- er – as in 'digger'

As they learn different spellings they 'grow the code' and learn to use grapheme charts to help them choose the right spelling.

Tricky Words

The biggest change for our teaching is the way we teach tricky words. The new scheme teaches the children to apply their phonics knowledge to tricky words and explains why the word is tricky; for example:-

- **is** - the i is phonetic but the 's' makes a 'z' sound. This is what makes it tricky
- **of** - the 'o' is phonetic but the 'f' makes a 'v' sound. This is what makes it tricky

The children are taught which bits of the words are phonetic and which bits are tricky.

Reading in School

The biggest and most exciting change is the reading practise sessions. We will no longer listen to individual reading in class. The children will have 3 reading sessions a week with a teacher or TA. Each reading session will focus on a different thing.

1. **Decoding** - The children will look through the tricky words and any new vocabulary and have an opportunity to read the book to decode the words.
2. **Prosody** - In this session they read the book again but the focus is on building expression and intonation.
3. **Comprehension** - In this final session the children will learn to answer questions about the text. They will be asked to prove it and explain it and use examples from the text to help back up their answers.

In each session the children will all read the book aloud and the adult will circulate and listen to all of them. This means they get lots of opportunities to practise and build fluency.

Reading at home

The way we cover the books in class and match the groups to assessments means that by the time the book gets home to you it should be extremely easy for your child to read and you get to give them a chance to show off!

The children will, therefore, replace their current reading book, which uses our book banding system, for a phonetically plausible book. Children will also bring home a book of their choice from our library for you as parents to read with your child. This will give you more time to enjoy the picture books the children are bringing home regularly (*they are allowed to swap these several times a week*). Sharing high quality picture books, building your child's knowledge of stories and developing their vocabulary is so valuable. Once children have completed the collection of phonetical plausible reading material in line with the planning, your child will then access our wide selection of reading material on our book banding system.

Keep up Sessions

The scheme also has built in 'keep up sessions' to help children that have found something difficult. We no longer need to listen to children read individually, therefore will dedicate TA time to supporting children to keep up.

We are very excited about the new scheme and the beautiful new books and resources. Please bear with us as we are learning and adapting as we implement these changes.

If you have any questions regarding this new scheme or how you can help you child further at home please get in touch with your child's class teacher via the class email.

Yours sincerely



Miss Heaslip
Headteacher