



Friday 12th November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Phonics in Reception and Year 1

At Harden Primary, we believe that **reading is the key to success** and underpins children's access to the curriculum; it clearly impacts on their achievement. To be able to read, children need to be taught an **efficient strategy to decode words**. That strategy is **Phonics**. Phonic decoding skills must be practised until it becomes **automatic** and **fluent reading** is established.

Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised is a complete systematic synthetic phonics programme (SSP) and it is the programme that we have adopted at Harden this year. We prioritise the teaching of phonics; **we teach phonics daily** in Year R and Year 1. It is vitally important that children review and revisit **Grapheme Phoneme Correspondences (GPCs)** and words, daily, weekly and across terms and years, in order to move this knowledge into the **children's long-term memory**. Our **consistent approach** to phonics ensures that children are given the best possible foundation for reading, writing and language skills.

Children need to learn to read as quickly and reasonably as possible, so that they can move from **learning to read, to reading to learn**, giving them access to the treasure house of reading. Our expectations of progression are **aspirational yet achievable**; children who are not keeping up with their peers are given additional practise immediately through keep-up sessions.

Children enjoy a range of **multi-sensory resources** to support their phonics learning. On-going assessment of children's progress takes place, and the books that the children read in school and take home to read are **fully decodable** and matched to children's **secure phonics knowledge (reading practise book)**. As well as fully decodable books, children take home a **non-decodable book for sharing (sharing book)** that can be either read to or with them. These books play an essential role in developing a love of reading; an important distinction is that these books are being shared with the children, but they are using fully phonetically decodable books to practise their independent reading. There is more information and supporting videos on this link: <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Supporting your child with reading at home

Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their learning and progress from home.



Reading practice book- This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. This may mean that your child brings home a book on a different book band to what they have been given previously. Rather than working through a specific colour band of books, their book will be chosen based on the phonics included and has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. Children should be fluent and not require the sounding out of every word. This enables them to become fluent readers. This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading as well as explore different vocabulary and word meanings. 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.

E book – Soon your child will be setup with a 'Collins ebook' account and where you will be able to access ebooks. These will be additional books linked to the work they are doing class. Further details for your 'Collins ebook account' and your log in will follow.

Sharing book- In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The sharing book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together. Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

If you wish to 'pop in' and discuss any of the above, or phonics in general then we will have an 'open classroom' for Reception and Year 1 where you can pop in, ask questions, and look at the resources. This will be on Wednesday 24th November 3pm-4pm.

Please do come and speak to me or a member of the team if you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Mrs Leanne Ruddock