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Year 1 -Little Wandle Phonics and Reading

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following guidance released last year regarding the teaching of Phonics and Early Reading, we have made the decision to invest in a new phonics scheme called 'Little Wandle' for EYFS and KS1. This is a government endorsed scheme set out to build fluency and comprehension in reading. This change will impact the way Phonics and Reading are taught at St. Peter's and the reading books that your child brings home. Following trials in class last year, we have already started to see positive outcomes and we are excited to implement the scheme fully in the coming months.

Children's progression in Phonics is directly related to their reading ability. The Little Wandle programme has a thorough and consistent approach which interlinks both of these skills. The aim is for all children to be working alongside their peers with a similar, secure phonic knowledge. The children are taught phonemes (the letter sounds) alongside the introduction of new formation phrases.

The children will continue to have daily phonics lessons and will have adult led reading practice sessions at school three times a week. As part of the introduction of Little Wandle, we have invested in new reading books that are completely decodable and directly match the phonics being taught in school. The children will read their book throughout the week in school and then bring this book home to share with you during the following week. The book from the Little Wandle scheme is carefully matched to your child's phonic reading level. If your child is reading it with limited support, please do not worry that it is too easy – it is to develop fluency and confidence given that the same book will be read 3 times during the school week. Providing lots of praise and encouragement will really help their fluency and confidence. Reading books will be sent home on a **Friday** and are required to be returned to school on the following **Tuesday**. In order for Little Wandle to be successful, it is important that reading books are returned to school promptly so that they can be used in school for subsequent groups.

Each week your child will also be sent home with a learning sheet that compliments the phonics being taught in school. The sheet will include the Phonemes taught during that week and related words that your child might like to practise reading and writing.

Alongside their Little Wandle reading book, the children will also bring a choice reading book home that they will choose from our travelling library. This book is intended as a book for you to share with your child and will not match your child's reading level. Sharing books makes a big difference to your child's education. When you read to your child you are making a positive impact on your child's reading ability and their love of reading. Reading a book and chatting about it has a positive impact on your child's ability to:

- understand words and sentences
- use a wide range of vocabulary
- develop listening comprehension skills

Reading books your child has chosen to read for pleasure is one of the best things you can do to help them succeed at school. A love of reading is the biggest indicator of future success!



Over the coming weeks in school, we will be conducting assessments to match children with the correct reading level. Whilst this is on-going, the children will bring home their choice book to share with you and will bring home their Little Wandle reading book once assessments are complete.

To introduce the Little Wandle Phonics and Reading scheme, we would like to invite parents and carers to a workshop on **Wednesday 12th October**. In this workshop we will share how the children will be taught phonics and reading in school, the pronunciation of sounds, share resources that can be accessed at home and explain the reading books being bought home. We hope that workshop will provide parents with strategies to support reading at home following the introduction of Little Wandle.

Thank you for your continued support,

Lisa Tarbuck

(Deputy Headteacher)

