



Reading in EYFS

EYFS is the most important year in a child's reading journey. Reading is complex: it is more than just word recognition. Comprehension plays a vital role in reading too. Comprehension starts with our understanding of oral language and develops rapidly on the back of word and sentence reading. Both of these are strong reasons for children learning to build words from their letter-sound components at an early age, when their brains are at their most plastic. Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised is firmly based on these principles. It is our aim that all children leave EYFS with a love of books, a desire to read and the ability to phonetically decode age appropriate books independently.

Reading with, and to, your child at home

Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home. There are two types of reading book that your child may bring home:

A sharing book. Your child will not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together.

A 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 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.

Please see our website for links to helpful reading resources.

Or search for "Little Wandle for parents" where you will find helpful videos on how to pronounce sounds, how we teach blending, sheets showing the patters for each sound and much more!

Little Wandle

At Westbury Park we follow the Little Wandle phonics scheme starting in EYFS and through until the end of KS1.

Your child will receive daily phonics input and focused reading sessions twice a week. In these sessions we focus on:

- The use of 'pure' sounds not 'sloppy' sounds
- The teaching of reading and writing phonemes with a 'patter'
- Oral Segmenting & Blending opportunities
- Reading words and captions

Reading Records

At the end of each week you will receive a new book in your child's book bag. Please read this book at least three times at home with your child. In your yellow reading record please write the date, title of the book and your initials in the boxes to show when you have read.

You may also leave a comment about how your child is getting on with their reading that we can share with the children to help motivate them! If you have any concerns with your child's reading then please email or speak to us directly.



Reading in EYFS

FAQ's

How often should my child read at home?

Little Wandle

We will listen to your child read twice a week at school - this is additional to their daily phonics lessons.

Reading with my child

We recommend listening to your child read at least 3 times a week at home. We also recommend reading to them daily.

My child is struggling to read tricky words, how can I help them?

It will help your child to display the tricky words somewhere accessible- on the fridge or a kitchen cupboard and ask them to read the words regularly. See if your child can spot a tricky word in a book you are sharing together and read it to you. Have a go at writing the tricky words, draw them in sand, make them out of magnetic letters.... Have fun with them!

Struggling to decode book

Every child is given a book they should be able to decode at this stage in their journey- remember to practice blending and segmenting at home even simple CVC words. E.g. cat, dog.

Struggling to focus or have motivation

Pick a time to read when you can focus together on the book in a quiet space. Find a time when your child is not too tired, maybe make this a regular time so your child gets used to a 'reading routine'. Look at the pictures together, discuss what might happen. Remember praise any attempts and correct gently.

My child is reading quickly and fluently, what should I do?

Great! Celebrate reading with your child. This is a focus book, based on a very specific assessment. The aim is that your child is able to decode it easily and build confidence and pride in their abilities. Extend your child through discussion of the book - comprehension is just as valuable as being able to decode what is on the page. Ask questions- why did this happen? What might happen next? How is the character feeling?

My child is finding reading really tricky. Do you offer any interventions to help them?

Children are assessed regularly and supported to fill any gaps in their phonic learning. This maybe as part of a small group or 1:1. Sometimes this will follow the Little Wandle intervention plan, sometimes your child may need individual activities to help support particular learning. Interventions are always 'little and often' to embed learning and groups are flexible depending on needs.