



Ryhope Infant School Academy
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Headteacher: Mrs T Allen

21 September 2021
Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back!

We have recently invested in a new phonics and reading scheme to use in our school with your children. To teach reading, we are following 'Little Wandle, Letters and Sounds Revised' which is a complete systematic synthetic phonics programme (SSP). All staff in school have received training in this programme.

All children have a daily phonics session with a member of school staff. Each lesson is taken from the programme and has been carefully planned to fit in with the progression of the programme. It isn't greatly different from how we have previously taught phonics, we simply have updated resources to use and new ways of teaching the children about each letter sound.

The progression of this programme has been organised so that children are taught from the simple to more complex GPCs (**Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence**— the individual letters or letters strings which represent individual sounds in the language). Children need to learn to read as quickly as reasonably possible, so 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 when maintaining pace, practice and participation by all children. Children who are not keeping-up with their peers will quickly be identified and given additional practice immediately through keep-up sessions.

There is a support section for parents and carers, where you can find resources to inform you of how the programme works and what your children will experience. There are also some short videos for you to access.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

You will receive information from your child's class teacher about which graphemes they have been introduced to each week and will be asked to practise these at home with your children.

Children in Year 1 and 2 will also receive spellings to practice at home each week and will have a spelling challenge in class. Further information will come from your child's class teacher.

Children will be taught to read in a small group at least twice a week with staff. They will also bring the book that they have read in school home to read to you. The book is matched to their phonic ability and will contain words which they can decode (sound out) with a growing confidence and increasing fluency. Children may initially start reading with a book containing no words. This is an important part

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of learning to read – developing book handling skills, talking about what they think might happen and why and practising oral blending are all important skills.

We only have enough books for our children. We recently spent an extensive amount of money updating our book stock. Therefore, **any books not returned to school after 1 reminder from the class teacher or damaged books will incur a £5 fee to replace the book as this will impact on our teaching of reading to other children.**

Children will bring home 2 books weekly—

A sharing book - to share with their family which they will have chosen from their class library or the main school library

A reading book - a book to read to parents / carers which matches their phonic ability and enables them to practice skills taught in school.

Reading books will be changed weekly, However, they need to be sent to school **every day** in order for staff to read with children.

Children will have a **Home – School reading diary** which you can fill in each time you read with your children. Staff will also let you know when they have read with them. A long comment isn't always required; however, we would encourage you to write in the book if your children found something tricky or there was something that you noticed was really positive. We always ask you to sign it, so that we know your child has read. Class teachers will monitor the diaries to ensure each child is receiving reading support at home as this is an important part of your child's reading development.

If you have any queries about this new programme, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Keep your eyes open for our first round of Phonics and Reading workshops.

Mrs A Scott
Reading Leader

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