

School Office Tel: 01935 850345

Email: office@countessgytha.ppat365.org

Web: www.countessgythaprimery.co.uk

27th September 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

PHONICS AND READING SCHEMES INFORMATION

We recognise that this letter is lengthy, however, this gives parents all of the information you need in order to understand how your child will be learning to read at Countess Gytha Primary.

What: Meet the Teacher and Phonics Information Drop in Meeting

Where: School Hall

When: 3pm – 4pm on Friday 4th October 2024

Our school uses the **Little Wandle Revised Letters and Sounds** scheme to provide an enjoyable and effective learning experience in Early Reading for all our pupils in EYFS and Key Stage 1. We believe that through close adherence and daily lessons using the Little Wandle approach, it enables our children to become proficient readers who are able to recognise letter sounds as they move up through the school.

Further parent support can be found when visiting Little Wandle's Website -

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/>

We look for our early readers to develop fluency, prosody and to comprehend what they read. We teach this through the Collins Big Cat Book Scheme in three Reading group sessions weekly.

How often is my child taught Phonics?

In Reception and Year One, Phonics is taught for half an hour daily. In the early weeks of Reception, this will build from 15 minute sessions twice daily to longer or multiple sessions by the end of the year. Additionally, class teachers will build in activities or tasks which embed their daily learning and allow revisiting and application. This may be in a writing task, a reading activity or through continuous provision learning in Reception.

How does my child's reading book align with Phonics teaching?

The Little Wandle books work in-line with phonics teaching. In fact, they deliberately reinforce behind the teaching delivered daily, in order to ensure that children have speedy sight recognition/recall to link the grapheme (letter or letters that make a sound) to the sound in their head.

By the time a pupil's reading book comes home, it has been read three times in class. This means that, while reading aloud, children are not struggling to sound out each and every word.

In addition to using phonic knowledge to read, children are required to store an ever-growing number of words in their memory which are deemed to be 'Tricky Words', so named because they have a letter or letters within them which do not segment and blend to sound out a word. 'Was' is a perfect example. These words appear in reading books and are taught and rehearsed in phonics lessons.

How do I support my child with reading 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. Further information can be found in the Reading at Home video on our website: <https://www.countessgythaprimary.co.uk/phonics-and-early-reading/>

In addition to your reading book, your child will also bring home **a weekly phonics reminder**. This sheet will contain all of the newly taught sounds, tricky words and decodable words for you to practise at home.

The first week's new sounds for Autumn Term 1 will be sent out on Friday 4th October and every Friday thereafter. For Merlin class, the weekly phonics reminder will be sent out on Tapestry.

Reading practice book

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. Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise – celebrate their success! If they are having trouble with one or two of the words, then it is fine to read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together. Use the questions in the back of the book to support their comprehension of the text.

If the book is returned damaged or lost, there will be a £5 charge to replace our resources.

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 from the school library 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!

What reading books will my child have?

The **Collins Big Cat** reading scheme aligned to the Little Wandle resources and so is used in both Foundation Stage (Reception) and Key Stage 1. This scheme allows our pupils to progressively build their vocabulary and comprehension skills as they practice reading key words and become increasingly fluent readers.

The graphemes (the way sounds are written in our language) and phonemes (the sounds that are blended together to make words in our language) are taught in sequence and these can be viewed on our website: <https://www.countessgythapprimary.co.uk/phonics-and-early-reading/>

If you would like any guidance as to how to deliver these sounds, then please speak to your child's teacher or please also find below a set of links, Little Wandle videos and parent resources on our website:

<https://www.countessgythapprimary.co.uk/phonics-and-early-reading/>

As children progress beyond Early Reading and phonics, they will transition on to the school's banded book system which enables readers to access a wide range of texts matched to their reading ability.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in contact with Miss Morris, Mrs King or Mr Gallagher.

Alternatively, we are having a **drop in 'Meet the teacher and Phonics information' meeting on Friday 4th October 2024**. This will take place between 3.00pm – 4.00pm in the school hall. This is an informal opportunity to meet with ourselves and discuss any questions that you may have.

Yours Faithfully,

Mr Gallagher (English Coordinator)

Mrs King (Pendragon Class Teacher)

Miss Morris (Merlin Class Teacher)