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Little Wandle Information

Dear Families,

Following Government guidance for schools to use an accredited phonics scheme we have invested in 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' to teach early reading skills at Hillshott. We are excited to implement this scheme which we are confident will have a positive effect on the children's learning.

Children's progression in phonics is directly related to their reading ability. The aim is for all children to be working alongside their peers with a similar, secure phonic knowledge. Children are taught phonemes (the letter sounds) and the introduction of new formation phrases to help them write their letters correctly. They are taught overt blending (sounding out) with fluent blending in their heads as the ultimate goal. Each unit consists of 5 weeks of teaching new phonemes and revisiting those previously learned. This is followed by a short assessment which informs us of your child's progress and any support they may need.

The scheme is set out for Reception and Year 1 children. Year 2 will be continuing their literacy work, alongside lessons for spelling, punctuation and grammar. Nursery children will be building a foundation for phonics through developing an awareness of sound and oral blending activities.

Daily phonics sessions will continue alongside small group reading sessions three times a week. The children will be reading phonically decodable books which will be linked to their secure phonic knowledge. Once children have read the book 3 times in school, the book will be sent home on a Monday as their home reader. As the aim is to create fluency, the children should be reading the book daily at home so it is revisited several times. The book from the scheme is carefully matched to your child's reading level. If your child is reading it with limited support, please do not worry that it is too easy – this will enable them to develop fluency and confidence.

The scheme also promotes a love for reading and this is done by sharing books together. Year 1 and 2 children will be bringing home a library book on a Thursday and Reception and Nursery children will bring home a story sack. Please continue to support us with reading as usual at home by reading daily and writing comments in their Reading Record. This can be from either their decodable book, their shared reading book or another book you may have shared at home. Once children have read 3 times in a week and this has been noted in their Reading Record, they will have the opportunity to be chosen to win a bookworm certificate and bookmark in Friday's celebration assembly.

The children in Year 2 who are working beyond our new phonics scheme will continue to bring home books specific to their reading ability, to read with you. They will also bring home a sharing book.

The main aim is to make reading FUN and the children are never too old to be read to by an adult.

For further support, please visit the website below. This gives you information about how you can support phonics at home, how the sounds are pronounced, how we will be teaching phonics and the books that will be coming home. <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Kind regards,

Mrs Mountney - Reading and Phonics Subject Leader

