Headlands Community Primary School

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Little Wandle Letters & Sounds (Revised)

Dear Parents/ Carers

At Headlands Primary School we use the 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds (Revised)' scheme to teach phonics and early reading skills. This 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 continuously being assessed. They are taught overt blending, but fluent blending in their heads is the ultimate goal.

The scheme is set out for Reception and Year 1. The children in Year 2 will receive daily lessons focusing more specifically on spelling, punctuation and grammar (**SPAG**).

All Reception and Year 1 children will have daily phonics and then they will have reading practise sessions at school three times a week. In line with the phonics scheme, we have invested in a complete set of **Big Cat** reading books (fiction and non-fiction) which are fully decodable and matched to your child's phonic knowledge.

Each reading session within school will have a different focus:

- **Decoding**
- **Prosody** (reading with rhythm, stress and intonation)
- **Comprehension**

The children will use the same book in all three sessions and then this book will be sent home each **Wednesday**. The purpose of this book is to '**show off**' their reading fluency and prosody. These books will be clearly identifiable by the **gold star sticker** on the front cover. It is ***vital*** that these books are returned to school each **Monday** as they will be needed by other children. Please ensure these books are well cared for and return in the same condition as you found them in. The '**show off**' book is carefully matched to your child's reading level. Please do not worry if it is too easy as its purpose is to develop fluency and confidence. Providing lots of **praise and encouragement** will really help with this! If they are unsure about a word, read it to them and ensure you talk about what it means. Continue to talk about the book throughout.

Alongside this fully decodable book, the children will bring home their 'share **with** me /read **to** me' book to encourage **reading for pleasure**. These books will have a **smiley face sticker** on the front cover.

Both books and your child's red reading record will come home in a **plastic zip-lock wallet** to protect them. Please use these when bringing books to and from school. May we also politely request that water bottles are not kept in book bags! Lost or damaged books will need to be replaced. Whilst we understand that this may have been accidental damage, we would be most grateful if you would contribute **£5.00** toward the cost of a replacement book should this be necessary.

Please continue to support us and your child by reading every day at home.

When reading any book with your child, the key to unlocking comprehension is asking them lots of questions and having beneficial discussions. Questions unlock thinking and discussing the pictures, predicting what might happen next, using different voices for different characters, thinking about character's personalities and relating the books to their own lives are all fantastic ways to work on comprehension. Exploring a range of non-fiction texts is also invaluable for the children's knowledge and understanding of the world.

The main aim is to make reading **FUN**! Children are never too old to be read to!

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/

We are excited about continuing our Little Wandle journey, as we know that it will have enormous benefits for the children.

Kind regards,

The EYFS Team