

Grateley Primary School

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A School where every child becomes a lifelong learner and realises their potential.

Thursday 12th May 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

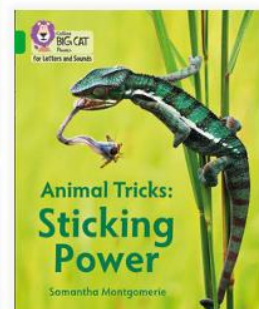
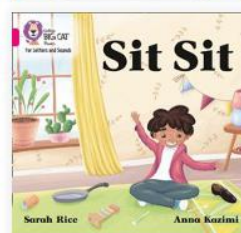
As you may be aware through our newsletters and website, we have started a new phonics and reading scheme this term called 'Little Wandle Revised Letters and Sounds'. This scheme builds on directly from the Letters and Sounds document that we have been using previously, offering structured lessons and keep-up sessions for children who may need a little extra input to help secure their understanding. We have been using the scheme for the last two weeks and are already seeing some fantastic improvements in memory retention, word blending ability and fluency in reading. It is the reading part of the scheme that has had the most significant change; we now focus a lot more on the fluency of reading once we have supported decoding. Our weekly reading sessions look like this:

The children read the same book, three times in a week. The first time we work on decoding (sounding out) the words, the second time we work on prosody which is reading with expression – making the book sound more

How do we teach reading in books?

Reading practice sessions are:

- timetabled three times a week
- taught by a trained teacher/teaching assistant
- taught in small groups



interesting with our storyteller voice or our David Attenborough voice – and the third time we look at comprehension. We read the books three times at school because we want to develop the fluency. The more children see words, the more they begin to read them automatically without having to sound them out.



Due to this change in our weekly approach to reading, you may have noticed your child bringing home 'easier' books than they are used to. This is to ensure that they can read 90% of the book without needing to decode or seek support from an adult. With this fluency your child will build confidence in their reading ability, be able to work on their prosody and also have a better comprehension of what they are reading.

We are also encouraging books to stay at home a little longer, so we will change books just twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays. Your child will also receive just one book instead of two or three so that they have a very clear focus and time to really get stuck into the book. If your child needs support with the 10% of words with which they are not yet fluent, please do help them / tell them, and encourage them to re-read the sentence to help secure the new word/s.

We
continue
to

We use assessment to match your child the right level of book



Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised Reception Child assessment				
Autumn 1				
m	a	p	c	o
s	g	k	u	h
i	t	n	r	f
d	ck	e	b	l
sat man hug red <u>peck</u>				



Reading a book at the right level



This means that your child should:

- Know all the sounds and tricky words in their phonics book well.
- Read many of the words by silent blending (in their head) – their reading will be automatic.
- Only need to stop and sound out about 5% of the words by the time they bring the book home – but they should be able to do this one their own.



encourage you to read **to** your child as well.

The most important thing you can do is read with your child



Reading a book and chatting had a positive impact a year later on children's ability to....

- understand words and sentences
- use a wide range of vocabulary
- develop listening comprehension skills
- The amount of books children were exposed to by age 6 was a positive predictor of their reading ability two years later.



Parental involvement in the development of children's reading skills: A five-year longitudinal study (2002) Senechal, M. and Lefvre, J

Hearing stories read by others helps to build on all the skills we have mentioned, and also provides some special one-on-one time with your child and gives them the **will** to read. We use the school library once a week so that your child can choose a 'sharing' book to bring home and enjoy with you. Please ensure library books are returned each week so that your child can then borrow a new book.

For further information and support on how you can help at home, please see our website:

<https://www.grateley.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Phonics&pid=360>

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do contact the school office and we will endeavour to support in any way we can.

Kind regards

Katie Heaps
Reading Leader