

Stanbridge Lower School



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Dear Parents/Guardians

Changes to How we Teach Reading at Stanbridge in Reception, and Year 1.

We have recently purchased a new reading scheme called Little Wandle to bring our reading approaches/schemes in line with the new guidance about how to teach children to read which is called systematic synthetic phonics (SSP) programmes.

There are two types of reading book that your child may bring home:

- A reading practice book. This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently.
- A sharing book. Your child will not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together.

The Reading Practice Book: Big Cat Books

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 can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.

As part of our homework policy we recommend that children read for 5 minutes each night. Please can you continue to record this reading session in your child's reading record.

The Sharing Book: Oxford Reading Tree, Songbirds, Storyworld, Bug Club or Library 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 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!

Support for Parents

These three videos (link below) show you how to pronounce the sounds. Notice how the children don't add an 'uh' sound at the end, so they say: 't' not 'tuh'. Use the downloadable information to help your child remember how to write their letters and say their sounds.



"We believe in our children"



Further Support can be found via this link: <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

The resources on the above link will also help you support your child with saying their sounds and writing their letters. There are also some useful videos so you can see how they are taught at school and feel confident about supporting their reading at home.

Find our full Reception and Year 1 teaching programme overview [here](#) to see what your child will learn and when.

How we Teach

The videos on this page show parents how we teach your child specific aspects of phonics in class.

Teaching of Handwriting

To bring our handwriting scheme in line with the new SSP programmes, from January we will be phasing in teaching a non-cursive approach to handwriting. We are aware that this has some repercussions for some children who have already started to learn pre-cursive. If your child has already mastered the pre-cursive approach to handwriting, then this will continue. If they haven't the children will be taught non-cursive.

From next year all children entering the Reception class will start learning to form letters using the non-cursive approach, and the pre-cursive approach started in Year 2. If anyone has any questions about this, please speak to Mrs Forbes, English Subject Leader or your class teacher.

Changes to How we Teach Reading at Stanbridge in Year 2

If your child ends year 1 on the Big Cat books on Orange Level or below they will continue reading the Big Cat Books, which are fully decodable, in Year 2. When they have finished this they will read the Oxford Reading Tree books at the appropriate reading level. The children will be given a reading book in school and they will now read this book at home as well. Please make sure either you or your child completes their reading record each time they read.

As part of our homework policy we recommend that children read for 5 minutes or longer each night. Please can you continue to record this reading session in your child's reading record. When they have finished their book and it needs changing, they can alert their teacher and change their book.

Changes to How we Teach Reading at Stanbridge in Year 3 and Year 4

At present the children in these year groups read one book in school and enjoy another book out of school. We have reviewed this system to make the reading process more progressive for children. The children will be given a reading book in school and they will now read this book at home as well. Please make sure either you or your child completes their reading record each time they read.

As part of our homework policy we recommend that children read for 5 minutes or longer each night. Please can you continue to record this reading session in your child's reading record. When they have finished their book and it needs changing, they can alert their teacher and change their book.

Please talk to your children and ask questions about the following things when you listen to them read.

- Draw inferences, such as inferring characters thoughts, feelings and motives and finding evidence in text of this.
- Predict what might happen from details stated and implied
- Identify main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph and summarise these
- Identify how language, structure and presentation contribute towards meaning
- Retrieve information from the text.
- Participate in discussion about the books they have read.
- Discuss words, phrases and new vocabulary.



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Yours sincerely

R J Godwin
Head Teacher

E Forbes
Literacy Subject Leader



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