Dear Parents/Carers,

We have recently transitioned to using Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised as our systematic synthetic phonics programme (SSP) and this programme will underpin the children's teaching of both reading and writing. To be able to read, children need to be taught an efficient strategy to decode words: phonics. It is essential that children are actively taught and supported to use phonics as the only approach to decoding.

Fluent decoding is only one component of reading. Comprehension skills need to be taught to enable children to make sense of what they read, build on what they already know and give them a desire to want to read. Reading increases children's vocabulary because they encounter words they would rarely hear or use in everyday speech.

Children will be given regular opportunities to apply the phonics they have learned to reading fully decodable books and will have daily reading practice sessions designed to focus on three key reading skills: decoding, prosody (reading with meaning, stress and intonation) and comprehension (understanding the text).

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. There are two types of reading book that your child will 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.

<u>Reading practice book</u>

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.

<u>Sharing book</u>

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!

The resources on the 'For Parents' section of Little Wandle website will help you support your child with saying their sounds and writing their letters (https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/). 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. Although the website will provide ways to support, please do ask your child's teacher if you would like more information about how you can support your child's learning at home.

Kind regards,

Miss Ayers, Miss Morris and Mrs Hudgell