Your child's reading journey
Reception Spring term

We are now over halfway through your child's first year at school! We hope you have seen the huge progress that your child has made in reading. The children have learned the Phase 2 sounds and are at various stages of learning to blend sounds to read words.

It is really important to remember that learning to read comes more quickly to some children than others. We are here to help *all* children learn to read and will provide your child with extra help if they need it.

In Reception this term, we will be teaching Phase 3 sounds. These are common vowel digraphs (two letters making one sound, for example 'oa') and trigraphs (three letters making one sound, for example 'igh'). Spotting these digraphs and trigraphs is key to cracking this next stage in the reading journey.

What will my child be taught in school this term?

- This term, phonics lessons run for 20–30 minutes daily.
- Your child will learn the Phase 3 vowel digraphs and trigraphs on their own and in words.
- They will continue to be taught the tricky words that they will read in their books.
- They will be reading either Phase 2 or Phase 3 decodable books, depending on where they are most secure. Some children will use the blending practice books for additional practice with blending sounds into words. Your child will only read books containing sounds they are confident with.

My child is reading the books fluently at home. Do they need a more challenging book?

- No! We want children to be able to read fluently and not find reading to be a chore.
- Once they can read fluently, they can focus on adding expression when reading aloud and showing their understanding of the book. Use the prompts on the back page of the books to check your child's understanding.
- Remember that phonics supports your child's reading and their spelling!



All for the love of reading

- Phonics is the way we unlock reading for your child. Our goal is for your child to master phonics, so they become a confident reader who loves books.
- Remember that when children choose to read, they increase their vocabulary, knowledge of the world around them and they develop their empathy. We will share books with your child every day and would love it if you did the same. Reading with your child really is the best possible way to inspire a love of books in them.

What can I do to support my child at home?

- Read to your child daily – books you can enjoy together. The love of reading books we send home are a great place to start!
- Listen to them practise reading their phonics book to develop their fluency.



- If you can, get a set of 'Little Wandle at Home' phonics flashcards (from **collins.co.uk/pages/little-wandle-at-home**) and play the suggested games.
- Ask your child's teacher if you need extra help with supporting your child – that's what we're here for!

Grown-up homework!

Here are some quick activities and links to give you the confidence to support your child with phonics.

1. Match the words to the definitions

1. segment	a. two letters that make one sound
2. digraph	b. three letters that make one sound
3. trigraph	c. breaking apart the sounds in a word

2. Watch the videos for parents

Go to the 'For parents' area of the Little Wandle website (see link below) and watch the following videos:

- Phase 3 sounds taught in Reception Spring 1
- How we teach tricky words

3. Help your child to develop a love of reading

Try to do one or more of the following with your child this term:

- Visit your local library.
- Find a book to buy in your local charity shop.
- Learn a nursery rhyme together.
- Make a special time every day for sharing books.

Find further resources and information for parents and carers at: www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents