Friday 5th February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Reading and Phonics at Sutton CE**

**Rationale**

We are very excited to share some phonics and reading changes with you and provide a bit of information around why we have made these changes.

**Changes to how we teach reading and phonics at Sutton CE in EYFS (Reception) and KS1.**

We have recently purchased a new reading and phonics scheme called Little Wandle, Letters and Sounds revisited to bring our reading approaches/schemes in line with the new national guidance about how to teach children to read. Little Wandle is a systematic synthetic phonics (**SSP**) programme. A Systematic Synthetic Phonics Programme (SSP) is a sequence of learning designed to teach children how to read through the act of decoding and blending. It teaches children the link between the sounds of our language (**phonemes**) and the written representation of these sounds (**graphemes**), or the spellings of the sounds contained within the English language.

From September 2022, we will make the full transition to the Little Wandle scheme but in the meantime, we will be making some small changes. This includes how we deliver our group reading sessions in school and how this links to home reading.

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 will have read this book during group reading sessions three times and should be able to read this fluently and independently.
* **A sharing book.**  Your child may not be able to read this book on their own as it is not fully decodable and may not match their exact phonics level. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together and will have been chosen by your child from our school library.

**The Reading Practice Book:**

This book has been carefully matched to your child’s current phonics stage/reading level and will be changed **every Friday.** Your child will have used this book in their 3 group reading sessions that week so will already have developed some fluency. If your child is reading it with little help, please don’t worry that it’s too easy – your child needs to re read to develop fluency and confidence. Listen to them read the book and 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.

**What is fluency?**

Fluency is defined as the ability to read with speed, accuracy, and good expression. In order to understand what they read, children must be able to *read fluently* whether they are reading aloud or silently. When reading aloud, fluent readers read in phrases and add intonation appropriately. Their reading is smooth and has expression.

We recommend that children read for 5-10 minutes each night. Please can you continue to record this reading session in your child’s reading record.

**The Sharing Book**

In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. We know that we have a very supportive school community and that our children are encouraged to read at home. The sharing book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together from our school library. 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 model good reading and have lots of fun! Please do record in your child’s reading record these reads too so we can talk to them about it in school. We love talking about reading, books and authors and our vision for all our children is that they feel the same.

***The journey of a lifetime starts with the turning of a page.***

**Rachel Anders**

**Support for Parents**

Today, on our school website and Facebook page, we have posted a video further explaining these changes and our reasoning behind them. Staff in school have worked effectively and collaboratively to implement these changes so will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Harrison

Reading and Phonics leader