

## **Phonics (reading and spelling)**

At Longmeadow, we believe that all our children can become fluent readers and writers. This is why we teach reading through *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised*, which is a systematic and synthetic phonics programme. We start teaching phonetical awareness from Nursery. Formal phonic teaching begins in Reception and Longmeadow follows the [Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised progression](#), which ensures children build on their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code, mastering phonics to read and spell as they move through school.

Because we believe teaching every child to read is so important, we have an English (reading and writing) and a Phonics Leader who drives the early reading programme in our school. They monitor and support our class teachers and teaching assistants, so everyone teaches with fidelity to the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* programme.

As a result, all our children are able to tackle any unfamiliar words as they read. All of our reading books are phonetically decodable and are matched to children's phonetical journey by class teachers following regular assessments. At Longmeadow, we also model the application of the alphabetic code through phonics in shared reading and writing, both inside and outside of the phonics lesson and across the curriculum. We have a strong focus on language development for our children because we know that speaking and listening are crucial skills for reading and writing in all subjects.

## **Comprehension**

We value reading as a crucial life skill. We believe that children go from learning to read to reading to learn. Children need to be able to read to access all other areas of the curriculum. By the time children leave us, they read confidently for meaning and regularly enjoy reading for pleasure. Our readers are equipped with the tools to tackle unfamiliar vocabulary. We encourage our children to develop a love of reading, both for pleasure and to help them know more and remember more.

## **Daily phonics lessons in Reception, Year 1 and for some Year 2 children**

We teach phonics daily. In Reception, we build from 10-minute lessons, with additional daily oral blending games, to the full-length lesson as quickly as possible. We follow all planning from the Little Wandle Revised Letters and Sounds Program. Each Friday, we review the week's teaching to help children become fluent readers.

## **Teaching reading in Reception, Year 1 and some Year 2 Children: Reading practice sessions**

We teach children to read through reading practice sessions. These:

- are taught by a fully trained adult to small groups of approximately six children
- use books matched to the children's secure phonic knowledge using the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised Framework*

- are monitored by the class teacher, who rotates and works with each group on a regular basis.
- Each reading practice session has a clear focus, so that the demands of the session do not overload the children's working memory.

The reading practice sessions have been designed to focus on three key reading skills:

- decoding
- prosody: teaching children to read with understanding and expression
- comprehension: teaching children to understand the text.

Please follow this link for more information regarding Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised, including the enunciation of sounds:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>