

Busbridge Infant School Bulletin

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for the support at the Little Wandle Parent/Carer Workshop and please look out for the link to recorded session for those of you who wish to see it.

Mrs Sollufi continues to work really hard on the introduction and implementation of the new Statutory Synthetic Phonics programme (SSP) called Little Wandle revised Letters and Sounds. This is the focus in this edition.

During this week, there was a visit from a consultant who works for the Whiteknights English Hub and they were very impressed with the introduction of the new SSP so far and offered some very helpful next steps for the school to consider. Further information about the hub can be found at <https://www.whiteknightsenglishhub.org.uk/>

We hope that the information here will help clarify the expectations about reading books that are coming home with your child.

Best Wishes, Darren Heatley

Update from the Governors

We are really excited by the work we have been doing on the values and vision of the school.

Thank you for your responses to the questionnaire which were fed into the session on values and vision jointly led by Hannah Roche and Mr Heatley on the INSET day. Several governors attended the session with staff which was really productive. We are carrying out some follow up work and look forward to sharing the outcome with you soon.

This month, governors have also held a full governing meeting to scrutinize progress against the Ofsted Action Plan. Julia Jagelman and Rachael Balls (safeguarding governors) carried out a safeguarding review. Julia also met with Sally Rogers for a budget overview. Anna Dawkins (Chair of Governors) attended a meeting with SAFE and South Farnham Educational Trust who are satisfied good progress is made across all areas of the action plan. Anna has also had regular update meetings with Mr Heatley.

Safeguarding Update

- The school will continue to have robust safeguarding procedures and appropriately trained staff to form the Safeguarding Team.
- In the Summer Term, Mr Heatley will return to the post holder of Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) temporarily until the new Deputy Head Teacher is appointed.

Little Wandle Reading Update

The spotlight falls on Little Wandle this time for the priority:

1: Ensure a consistent approach to phonics is implemented throughout the school. Introduce a new systematic, synthetic phonics programme and implement whole-school training to ensure a consistent and robust approach

Little Wandle Update & World Book Day

We're teaching every child to read with Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised

A complete SSP validated by the Department for Education



Firstly, thank you to those of you who were able to attend the Little Wandle workshop last week. I know that there was a lot covered in the session and I hope that you found this information useful. Please look out for an evaluation/feedback form that will be emailed to you next week.

The workshop was an opportunity to share and discuss the key changes for how we will be teaching reading. These are detailed below.

Today was the last day that staff will be listening to children individually read. Instead, as directed by the Little Wandle Phonics Programme, your child will take part in 3 weekly reading practice sessions, in a small group with their peers, all of whom are reading the same decodable book. In these reading practice sessions all children read at the same time and do not 'turn take'. Each session enables a trained member of staff to teach key reading skills; decoding (phonics), prosody (intonation, pace, expression), and comprehension (understanding of the text). Therefore, your child will be bringing home one decodable reading book each week, to read to you at home. These books are currently in electronic form, and are available at the end of each week, usually on a Friday. Remember, that this is the same book they have been practicing in school during the week. Your child's class teacher will have matched your child to a decodable book that they should be able to read at least 90% fluently by the time they share it with you at home. These books are selected using Little Wandle assessments that all classes have now completed. These books provide an opportunity for your child to celebrate their reading successes with you.



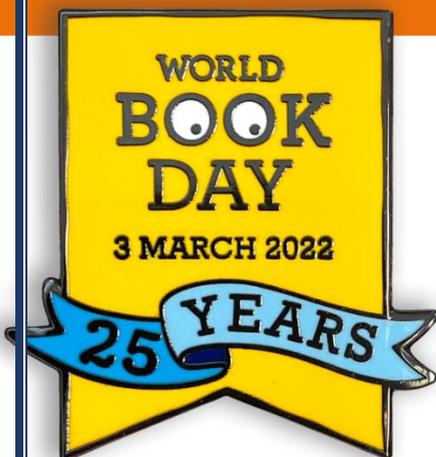
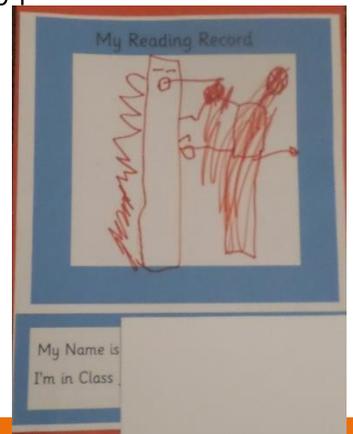
Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised Classroom Resources and Books

Big Cat Phonics for Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised has been developed in collaboration with two English Hubs, Wandle Learning Trust and Little Sutton Primary School. We are delighted, thanks to the PTA, to have purchased classroom resources to support the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised SSP and a range of decodable books that together provide a consistent and highly effective approach to teaching phonics.

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In your child's book bag you have the following:

- A 'Collins Big Cat ebook libraries Parent Guide'. This letter contains information that will guide you through the process of logging into and accessing your child's account. Your child's unique username and password are detailed at the beginning of the letter. Please keep this letter safe and make a note of your login details. If you have any issues accessing the account, please speak to your child's class teacher. Every Friday a new book will be available for your child to share with you at home.
- A new, larger A4 reading record. We will continue to use individual reading records to help us to monitor and track every child's reading progress. However, these will look slightly different to the ones used previously. We will no longer be using the A5 yellow reading records, and will instead be using a larger A4 book. During the first reading practice session of the week, the adult reading with your child will stick in a reading label. This label will contain information such as the book title, phonemes covered, tricky words, new vocabulary, and comprehension questions that are relevant to the chosen decodable book. Every time your child takes part in a reading practice session, the adult who is reading with the group will date and initial onto to reading label. A new reading label will be stuck into your child's reading record each week; to reflect the new book that is being practiced in these sessions. Adults will highlight, on the sticky label, any areas that your child needs to continue to practise or focus on at the end of the 3 reading practice sessions.
- A reading record front cover. Please take this opportunity to ask your child to design a front cover for their reading record. This could include a picture that the children have drawn of themselves, a book character, the front cover of their favourite reading book etc. The front cover should be clearly labelled with your child's first name and surname, and the name of their current class (see accompanying example).



Yesterday marked the 25th year of the much loved World Book Day. This is a day of celebrating a love of all things reading!



There were lots of events in school on the day, including the making of bookmarks, writing book reviews and, of course, the very exciting 'Busbridge Masked Reader' event! The whole school split into their house teams (Baloo, Rupert and Paddington) and watched 3 masked readers share a favourite story. There was an opportunity for the children to vote for who they thought was behind each mask, and in the afternoon each masked reader was revealed. This event created a great buzz around the school and we look forward to making plans ready for a repeat performance next year!

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Classroom Libraries

Thanks once again to the PTA who has helped us to create inviting classroom libraries for the children. These are really beginning to transform wonderfully, and the children have been very excited by these new improvements!



This is a good opportunity to clarify what is not changing (for the time being)!

Choosy books are still to be changed by your child every day, or once they have read these with you at home and want to change them. Choosy books are our school 'reading for pleasure' books. This is the book that your child has selected from their classroom library, and is for you to read to your child at home e.g. as a bedtime story. These books will have a silver (fiction), gold (non-fiction), or red (poetry) sticker around the spine. Your child has the option to change these books on a daily basis, normally as part of their morning routine. However, this is not a necessity. Your child may wish to keep a selected choosy book for a longer period of time. Every time you read the book to your child, it is an opportunity for you and your child to develop a deeper understanding of the text. Talking and asking questions during and after reading is immensely valuable. Ask your child open questions such as 'does that make you think of anything/anyone else?' or 'why do you think that character did/said that?'. Allow your child to share their thoughts about character and events in a story. Discuss a 'favourite' picture, character, page (particularly in non-fiction books). Encourage your child to expand vocabulary by ensuring that they have understood any new words in the text. Offer opportunities for your child to make links to real-life experiences. Ask them to explain why they like/dislike a setting, character, page in the book. Talking also facilitates an interest in words; collect new, tricky and interesting words in a notebook or use fridge magnets; challenge each other to use one of the words during the day.

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Volunteers

Thank you to those who have kindly volunteered to take home a bag full of books to remove old coloured stickers and apply the new silver, gold, red stickers, for our whole school reading library. You can expect to receive your bag of books very soon!

If you did not attend the Little Wandle Workshop but think that you may be able to help with this, please email the school office on info@busbridge-infant.surrey.sch.uk. It is hoped that the school library will be up and running over the next few weeks. Once books are sorted and timetables organised, you can expect your child to bring home a third book every week to share with you from the library.

If you wish to find out further information about how we organise and teach Little Wandle reading practice sessions, as well as other useful information, use the following links:

[Little Wandle Resources for Parents](#)

[Application of Phonics to Reading | A Complete Phonics Resource to Support Children](#)