



'Together We Can'

03 September 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to Conkers!

As your child starts their Reception year here, at Leavening, their reading journey also commences! This is an exciting time for your child and a vital year of schooling which underpins all of their future learning. We therefore thought you might be interested to know more about *how* reading is taught here at Leavening.

As a school, we follow the 'Little Wandle' synthetic phonics programme. Your child will take part in a daily phonics session with Mrs Bennett and Mr Mortimer. Every lesson is taken from the Little Wandle programme and has been carefully planned to fit their programme progression. This progression has been organised so that children are taught from simple to more complex GPCs (Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence— the letter or letters which represent individual sounds in the English language) in quick succession.

Children learn to read as quickly as is reasonably possible, so they can move from learning to read, to reading to learn, thus giving them access to the wonderful world of books! Our expectation of progression for the children is aspirational yet achievable, whilst maintaining pace, practice and the participation of all students.

Children who are not keeping-up with their peers will quickly be identified and given additional practice immediately through 'keep-up' sessions. Every half-term, you will receive flashcards and information about which graphemes your child has been introduced to in the previous few weeks. You will be asked to practise flashcard recognition at home with your child. The more practise the better! We have included a grapheme information sheet with this letter, which explains how to say the phonemes (sounds) and how to write each grapheme with correct letter formation. You may also be interested in the support section for parents and carers on the Little Wandle website, where you can find resources to inform you of how the programme works and what your child will experience.

There are also some short videos for you to access:

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

In addition to their phonics sessions, the children will be taught to read in small groups at least three times each week. They will also bring home a book to read to you in the coming weeks. The book is matched to their phonic ability and will contain words which they can decode (sound out) with growing confidence and increasing fluency. Reading books will be changed weekly. Children may initially start reading a book containing no words. Please note that we would like reading at home to be an enjoyable experience and not one that feels like a chore, so we endeavour to send home reading practice books in which your child can read 95% of the words. This may not be a different book every time; it may need to be the same book if your child still needs to develop their fluency. Rest assured that the book will be at the right level for your child to develop their fluency, even if it does seem 'too easy' from a word decoding perspective!

Please ensure that the school books are always stored in your child's bag so we can access them as needed. Children will have a home - school reading diary once they start reading, which you can fill in every time you read with your child. Staff will also let you know when they have read with them in this book. A long comment isn't always required; however, we would encourage you to write in the book if your child found something tricky or there was something that you noticed was really positive. We always ask you to sign it, so that we know your child has read.

If you have any queries about reading in school, please do not hesitate to speak to one of us.

Teaching your child to read is both a privilege and a joy and we hope that their reading journey is one you will relish joining us on!

Kind regards (and an open door!),

Mrs Bennett & Mr Mortimer.