

At White Hall Academy we follow Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised as our systematic synthetic phonics (SSP) programme to teach early reading and spelling. It is based on the original Letters and Sounds. Little Wandle has extensively revised 'Letters and Sounds' to provide a complete teaching programme, which is fully resourced and sets expectations of progression that are aspirational yet achievable. We will work through the entire Little Wandle Programme until your child can successfully utilise their phonic knowledge and blending skills to read fluently. Children need to learn to read as quickly as reasonably possible, so they can move from learning to read, to reading to learn, giving them access to the treasure house of reading.

### **Phonics in Nursery**

If your child attends our Nursery provision we will be preparing them by teaching them the foundations of phonics. We use engaging games to teach oral blending and phonemic awareness. We support language development and a love of books through: sharing high quality stories and poems, learning a range of nursery rhymes and action rhymes, activities that develop focused listening and attention and pay attention to high-quality language with children.

### **Phonics in Reception and Year 1**

As usual, children in Reception and Year 1 will continue to have daily phonics lessons. They will be taught 4 new grapheme phoneme correspondences (GPCs) per week, plus a review lesson on a Friday. Knowing a GPC means being able to match a phoneme (sound) to a grapheme (written representation) and vice versa. The children will also learn a series of 'tricky words'. Tricky words are those words which cannot be sounded out using their phonemes. We will build into the timetable some weeks for the children to consolidate what has been taught so far. We assess your child every six weeks to check progress. Any child who needs extra support will have keep-up sessions planned for them.

### **Phonics in Year 2 and beyond**

Children who are not secure with phonics at the end of Year 2 are supported in a number of ways. The class teacher will deliver whole class phonics sessions if a large number of children in the class are not secure on a certain element of phonics. Class LSAs will run small group sessions, planned for by the class teacher. Such children will also be listened to read more frequently. Any child who needs extra support will have Little Wandle Catch Up sessions planned for them.

**Head Teacher: Mrs Ellie Eames**

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### **Reading**

Our children learn to apply their phonics skills and knowledge by reading decodable reading scheme books that are closely matched to their phonics knowledge. Teachers and LSAs assess the children regularly to ensure reading scheme books are appropriate for each child. Children are listened to read by a member of staff in their class weekly.

### **Supporting phonics at home**

For further information on how to support your child with phonics, please visit the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds website:

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

Here you will find a grapheme information sheet and 'How to' videos, to help you with formation and pronunciation. It is really important that you pronounce the sounds correctly at home if you are supporting your child. The videos are on the website for you to refer to and if you are unsure, please ask your child's teacher. We hope you and your child enjoy reading together at home.

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