

# Cupernham Infant School

*Together we care, we learn and we achieve*

**Headteacher: Mr Duncan Wells BA(Hons)QTS, NPQH**

**Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Jen Turski BA(Hons)QTS**



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are extremely excited to be launching our 'Little Wandle' Phonics Teaching Scheme which we will use alongside our 'Big Cat Phonics' school and home reading books. This is in line with new DfE school guidance about how to teach children to read using a systematic synthetic phonics programme.

By ensuring high-quality phonics teaching, the government wants to improve literacy levels to:

- give all children a solid base upon which to build as they progress through school
- help children to develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information

A home and school partnership where we are all working together, is essential for your child's reading development and progress. From **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January**, there are two types of reading books that your child will bring home:

- **Reading practice Big Cat book or e-book to develop phonic and reading skills**
- **Reading for pleasure 'sharing' books from our library**

## **Reading practice Big Cat book or e-book :**

These beautiful new books will help to develop your children's phonic and reading skills whilst fostering a love of reading for all. This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading. **Your child should be reading each book with at least 95% fluency.**

Listening to them read the book will really help them to develop this fluency. Remember to give them lots of praise to celebrate their success! If they can't read a particular word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together. **It is essential that you read with your child regularly at home** (we recommend 3 times or more per week). Please continue to record **all** home reading in your child's reading record.

There is a helpful guide at the front of each of the books which outlines the phonic and tricky word focus and also all the new vocabulary your child should understand. At the back of each book there is a review guide to support you and your child's reading.

Your child will keep their book for a week. On a Monday, teachers will add the title of the book to their reading diaries and during the week you will receive at least one comment which is specific to your child's reading needs. This comment will focus on an area/target that we would like you to support your child with at home.

In addition to this, we will be providing you with your own Big Cat log in details. This will enable you to access teacher chosen Big Cat reading practice e-books to enhance your child's reading further.

**Bransley Close, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 7JT**

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## **Reading for pleasure 'sharing' books:**

In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. Their 'sharing' books are books that they have chosen for you to enjoy together from our library. The children will now be able to borrow two books each week. We will encourage each child to choose both fiction and a non-fiction, however, it will ultimately be what your child chooses to read for pleasure. **Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone.** Ideally, read it to or with them. This will then enable you to have fun while discussing the pictures and predicting what might happen next. You may also like to use different voices for the characters and link the story to your child's own experiences. For non-fiction books you can explore the facts you have read about and maybe create a quiz at the end.

## **Reading Practice Sessions in School:**

The children will have **3 reading sessions** a week with their class teacher and LSA's, therefore **it is essential that your child's Reading Practice book is in every day.** These sessions will focus on three key reading skills:

- decoding - blending and segmenting the words
- prosody – reading with meaning, stress and intonation
- comprehension – understanding the text

## **Respect:**

As one of our school rules all children are taught to look after all our books, particularly our new books so that they can be enjoyed by many children for years to come. Please ensure this is reinforced at home, for example, please do not put water bottles in book bags to prevent damage. We understand that accidents happen but these books are part of a set and therefore if books are lost or damaged we are unable to do our group reading. In this instance, you will receive a letter home detailing how to pay for or replace the book. Thank you for supporting us in respecting our books.

## **Support for Parents:**

We have provided three videos in the link below to show you how to pronounce the sounds. Notice how the children don't add an 'uh' sound at the end, so they say: 't' not 'tuh'. Please use the downloadable information to help your child remember how to write their letters and say their sounds.

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

We are in the process of creating a recorded workshop to provide further details to help parents with effective strategies and handy hints. We will also be updating our website shortly to share examples of ways to make your home reading as much fun and effective as possible. We will let you know when this page goes live.

We look forward to seeing your child's love of reading develop both at home and school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Turski, Miss Freeman and Mrs Platt

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