

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to make you aware of some recent changes to Durham Lane Primary School's teaching of phonics and reading, particularly in Early Years and Key Stage One.

As a school, we have always been successful in teaching children to read using a synthetic approach whereby children have been taught to read simple individual sounds first, then taught to put them together to form words, before finally progressing to more complex combinations.

However, the government now wishes all schools to be more systematic in their approach to the teaching of phonics and reading and so, like many other schools, we have purchased a reading programme which provides us with all the necessary resources, ensuring uniformity across the school. (The programme we have chosen is called 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised').

In order to follow the programme correctly, we will need to make some changes to the sequence of our phonics teaching, as well as the way we approach reading sessions in school and the books which we send home. We will be hosting some parental workshops for you very soon which will explain the programme in some detail and will also explain how you can help to support your child's reading at home.

We believe that it is the school's role to teach reading. However, parents/carers play a vital role too. It is therefore really important that children have plenty of practice reading at home in order to become fluent, confident readers. Your continued support is needed to help your child practise reading and develop fluency with a book **they have already read at school**. This book will be matched to your child's phonic stage, will be fully decodable and your child should be able to read it without your support.

We will be starting this programme after half term and, as it is new to us at present, we will mainly be sending home ebooks at this stage. However, your child will also receive **shared books** for you to read with or to your child so that they develop a love of books and a desire to read for pleasure. (These books will be clearly labelled). **If you do not have access to the internet or do not have a device which will allow you to have access to these ebooks, please let the class teacher know.**

More details will follow, explaining how to access the ebooks and how you can support your child's reading. We hope that you and your child enjoy both the practice ebook as well as the shared books which will be coming home soon and, as always, look forward to hearing your valued feedback which can be written in your child's reading record.

Dates of parental workshops will be sent to you in the very near future.

Happy reading!

Miss EMP Barrett (Deputy Head Teacher)