



## Phonics and Early Reading.

### In this issue:

- How we teach Phonics
- DfE Validated Phonics Programme (Little Wandle)
- Link between Little Wandle & Collins Big Cat Reading books.

Welcome to our phonics curriculum newsletter.

In this edition, you will find some important information to help you understand how we teach phonics and early reading in school.

Thank you for taking the time to read it and if you have any questions feel free to get in touch.

Mrs Merrifield

## Phonics

Raddlebarn has chosen to use 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' to teach early reading and spelling.

From nursery, through reception and Year 1, children receive **daily phonics** instruction from trained teachers and practitioners.

Children learn to tune in to the sounds (phonemes) they hear and speak and connect them with the letters (graphemes) that we write. Each sound is taught in a specific order, to assist the children's reading progression.

We teach four new sounds each week, reviewing them every Friday. We practise spelling words that have the current week's sounds. In addition to the taught sounds, we teach 'tricky' words, which are reviewed throughout each week and in future lessons, to further embed recognition.

Each child will segment and blend words at different rates. With this in mind, our trained team will assess each child and ensure that they make rapid progress, with additional practice sessions, when needed.

Department of Education's intent:

*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*



Videos and information about **Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised** content and delivery can be found here:

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



How we teach tricky words



**Reading support & phonics confidence.** - Fostering a love of reading is at the heart of all we do here at Raddlebarn. School and parents **working together** to support our children's reading journey, is essential.

*Reading development relies on the combined acquisition of:*

**word recognition** (phonological awareness – phonemes, decoding and sight recognition of familiar words) – this is where our Little Wandle Phonics Instruction impacts.

**language comprehension** (breadth of vocabulary, verbal reasoning, language structures & literacy knowledge) – this is developed through daily Little Wandle Reading sessions, guided reading in class, story time reading and sharing books.

From Reception and through to Year 2, your child will have **regular reading sessions**, with Collins Big Cat/ Little Wandle reading books. The content in these books is closely matched to the collection of sounds your child has been learning during their phonics lessons. The aim is for the texts to have **90% decodable** words, so that by the time children bring their book home, they are **reading independently** and confidently.