

# SPOTLIGHT ON PHONICS AT RADDLEBARN



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- How we teach Phonics
- Link between Little Wandle & Collins Big Cat Reading books.
- Why we promote regular reading.

Welcome to our phonics curriculum newsletter.

In this edition, you will find some important information to help you understand how we teach phonics and reading in school. Our phonics results showed progress last academic year with over 90% children passing the phonics test in Year 2 and 82% of children passing the Year 1 Screening test.

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition and if you have any questions feel free to get in touch. Mrs Merrifield

**Phonics** Raddlebarn uses '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. With daily practice and a rigorous approach, 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.

In a recent phonics refresher training session for staff, there were some points about early reading that resonated with us; one in particular we felt really clarifies the importance of regular reading. It also reflects our practice:



Most pupils, however, have to decode a word overtly several times in different contexts before it becomes familiar enough to read 'at a glance'.

Reading framework 2023



This quote sums up **HOW** we decode words in books and **WHY** there is a need for **daily phonics** and reading practice. 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.

From Reception and through to Year 2, your child will have **daily 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. We record comments and note your child's progress on Boom Reader, this is an essential platform for you, as parents, to interact with.

*FAQ's: How do we ensure in phonics lessons that children acquire the phonemes (sounds) rapidly?*

We teach four new sounds each week, reviewing them every Friday. We practice 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.

*How will my child be supported if they find some words difficult?*

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.


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/>

On the **Little Wandle Parents' Information** pages, you will see letter sound and formation sheets – this is really helpful when practising formation with your child at home.

### Phase 2 grapheme information sheet

Autumn 1

Grapheme and mnemonic	Picture card	Pronunciation phrase	Formation phrase
<b>s s</b>	 snake	Show your teeth and let the s hiss out ssssss ssssss	Down the snake from head to tail.
<b>a a</b>	 astronaut	Open your mouth wide and make the a sound at the back of your mouth a a a	Around the astronaut's helmet and down into space.
<b>t t</b>	 tiger	Open your lips, put the tip of your tongue behind your teeth and press t t t	Down the tiger and across its neck.
<b>p p</b>	 penguin	Bring your lips together, push them open and say p p p	Down the penguin's back, up and around its head.
<b>i i</b>	 iguana	Pull your lips back and make the i sound at the back of your mouth i i i	Down the iguana and dot the leaf.
<b>n n</b>	 net	Open your lips a bit, put your tongue behind your teeth and make the nnnnn sound nnnnn	Down, up and over the net.
<b>m m</b>	 mouse	Put your lips together and make the mmmmm sound mmmmm	Down, up and over the mouse's ears.

### Useful videos



How we teach tricky words



How we teach blending

You will find handy videos to watch, showing how we deliver phonics sessions, focus on blending and how we teach tricky words.

As well as a new feature – Nursery Rhyme videos and songs to download.

Nursery rhymes  
- videos

Nursery rhymes  
- downloads



Down at the Station

Download →



Hey, Diddle, Diddle

Download →

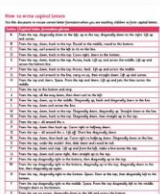
Other downloads include the full phonics programme overview, each term's sounds and links to the Collins Website.



### Reception Spring 1 sounds

Download a guide to how children are taught to say their sounds in Reception Spring 1

Download



### How to write capital letters

Download a guide to how children are taught to write capital letters

Download