John Burns Primary School
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Wycliffe Road London SW11 5QR
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Headteacher: Mr B Grogan BSc QTS NPQSL

Monday 23rd September, 2024

Dear Parents,

EARLY YEARS HOME READING ARRANGEMENTS (RECEPTION-AGED PUPILS)

Reading underpins children's access to the curriculum and it clearly impacts on their achievement. There is considerable research to show that children who enjoy reading and choose to read benefit not only academically but also socially and emotionally.

This afternoon, your child will bring home their reading record, a wordless or fully decodable home reading book and a sharing book to read at home.

DECODABLE READING PRACTICE BOOKS (LITTLE WANDLE)

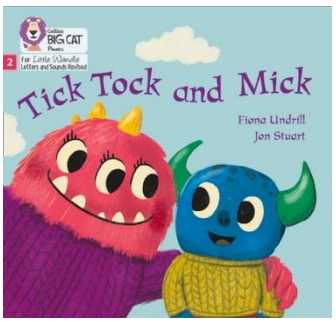
The reading practice book that your child will have received has been carefully matched to the sounds they have been learning in daily *Little Wandle* phonics lessons.

Reception-aged pupils in Early Years will have had the opportunity to read this book with their teacher in reading practice sessions.

Reading practice sessions have been designed to focus on three key reading skills:

- decoding
- prosody – reading with meaning, stress and intonation
- comprehension – understanding the text.

Children should be able to read the practice book with developing confidence and fluency without any significant help. Your role as a parent/carer is to listen with interest and to encourage and praise, acknowledging your child's achievement. If your child has received a wordless picture book, please follow the guidance at the end of this letter to support your child when reading the book.



Decodable books are identifiable by the Collins Big Cat Phonics for Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised logo on the top left hand corner of the book cover.

Support with reading at home is available on the Little Wandle website, including a video under the 'Books coming home' tab: https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/

Your child will need to bring their decodable reading book to school **every day**. These books will be changed every **Monday**.

SHARING BOOKS (READING FOR PLEASURE)

Your child's sharing book is a book that has been chosen by your child to share and enjoy reading at home with you. Children are not expected to read their sharing book independently. This book is for parents/carers to read to or with their child. It is good to talk about the book with your child, but important not to turn the discussion into a test. The goal is enjoyment.

Your child's sharing book should be returned to school for changing on **Wednesdays**.

EYFS READING EXPECTATIONS

The expectation is to read at **least three times a week** for **10 minutes**. Book bags, reading books and reading records should be brought into school **every day**.

Suggestions for Comments

- Record any new vocabulary that your child has learnt
- Did they struggle with the book or find any particular words difficult? What were these words?
- Did they understand the book? Could they give a summary of the book or name any key themes?
- Were they able to read the book independently?
- Can they drop any new words or phrases into family conversation?

Teaching staff will hear your child read during the week. They will also write a comment in your child's reading record book too.

If you would like support with home reading or you are experiencing any difficulties in engaging your child in home reading, please contact me via the school office.

If you have any questions about your child's reading development or about the specific book they bring home, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of the Early Years team.

Yours sincerely,

Miss D Buckley

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Assistant Headteacher

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WORDLESS BOOKS GUIDANCE

During the first part of the autumn term, your child will bring home wordless books. Please read the guidance below to find out why these books are beneficial for your child and how to support them with reading them.

Why are wordless books beneficial?

Sharing wordless books is a fantastic way of building important literacy skills, including listening skills, vocabulary, comprehension and an awareness of how stories are structured. Wordless books are told entirely through illustrations and engage children in prediction, critical thinking, meaning making and storytelling.

Top tips for sharing wordless books with your child:

1. Begin by **looking at the cover**. What can you see? What clues to the story does the cover illustration show?

2. **Read the title**. Does the title give you any ideas of what the story might be about? Make predictions about the story based on the cover and title.

3. **Take a picture walk**. Look through the pages of the book with the sole purpose of enjoying the pictures. Talk about anything that captures your attention.

4. **"Read" the story**. You might go first, inviting your child to add to your story as they see fit. Don't be afraid to tell your story with dramatic flair. Add sound effects and interesting voices that suit the characters of your tale.

5. Encourage **your child to take a turn** telling their own version of the story, using the pictures and turning the pages as they go.

6. **Ask questions about the book** — which is your favourite illustration? Do you have a favourite part of the story or a favourite character? Can you tell about a time you have felt like the main character or found yourself in a similar situation?