



The Trent-Rylands Federation

Trent Vale Infant and Nursery School *and* Beeston Rylands Junior School



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Dear Parents/ Carers

Changes to How we Teach Reading at Trent Vale in F2 and Year 1.

We have recently purchased a new phonics and reading scheme called Little Wandle Letters and Sounds. This scheme will be implemented over the next term in F2 and Year 1. We have uploaded a presentation, giving key information about the scheme, on to our website for your information. You will find this on your child's class' home learning page.

Reading at home

There are two types of reading book that your child may bring home- A reading practise book and a sharing book.

A reading practice book- Collins Big Cat Books. This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child and has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. They should be able to read this book fluently and independently. They will have already read this book 2 or 3 times in school, as part of a group reading practise sessions. So by the time the book comes home, your child will be very familiar with it and may need little help to read it. Please don't worry that it's too easy - your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading. Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise - celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together.

- Your child will progress through the levels of these books. As we are starting this phonics scheme in the Summer Term rather than the beginning of the academic year, some children in year one, may have had already completed all the levels of these books. They will therefore only be bringing home a sharing book - see below .

These books are brand new and we are very keen to keep them in good condition and also in complete sets. We will provide your child with a plastic bag so that you can keep the book safe and free from water damage or being crumpled in their school bags. These books need to be kept in the plastic bag and then placed inside their home reading diaries. Please also ensure that your child always keeps their book inside their school bag, so they can be changed weekly at school. If a child does not return a previously read book we will not issue a new book. Each class will have a changing book routine and a regular day each week that books will be collected in and changed.

Sharing books. You will be familiar with these books already as they will be from our book banded selection such as Oxford Reading Tree. They will now have a red sticker on the front cover. Your child may not be able to read this book on their own as it is not fully decodable and may not match their exact phonics level. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together. In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The sharing book is a book your child has chosen for you to enjoy together. Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this completely independently. Read it to or with them a number of times encouraging independence. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. Again, please ensure these books are kept in their school bag and returned to school.

As part of our homework policy we recommend that children read four times a week. Please can you continue to record this reading session in your child's reading record.

Support for Parents

Further Support can be found via this link:

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

These videos 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'. Use the downloadable information to help your child remember how to write their letters and say their sounds.

There are also some useful videos which demonstrate how they are taught phonics and reading at school.

Changes to How we Teach Reading at Trent Vale in Year 2

If your child ends Year 1 on the Big Cat Books on book band orange level or below, they will continue reading the Big Cat Books, which are fully decodable, in Year 2. When children are confident with using their phonics to decode texts and are reading texts with increased fluency, children will move on to the colour banded books that we currently use in school. These will be matched to their reading ability. Please make sure either you or your child completes their reading record each time they read.

As part of our homework policy, in Year 2 we recommend that children read four times a week. Please can you continue to record this reading session in your child's reading record.

Yours sincerely

The Trent Vale Team