



Phonics and Reading at Moulsham Infant School

A Guide for Parents



Early Reading and Phonics



In summary -

- ❖ Children will bring home 1 reading practice book each week. They will also bring home a 'sharing' book.
- ❖ The reading practice book will only have sounds your child has been taught in school and is for them to practice their reading skills.
- ❖ The reading practice book should be read multiple times over the week, to help your child become fluent readers of the sounds they are practising in school. This is crucial: the more fluent children become, the easier it is for them to read for enjoyment and understanding.
- ❖ The sharing book will have words your child may be unsure how to read. The purpose of this book is simply to share with a loved one at home and to enjoy the book together.

At Moulsham Infant School we have chosen **Little Wandle: Letters and Sounds Revised** as our phonics programme. This systematic programme for teaching children the skills needed to learn to read fluently has been validated by the Department for Education, and also aligns with our school's main reading scheme: Collins Big Cat.

Further details on this programme can be found at the Little Wandle website:

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

As part of the Little Wandle programme, which runs through EYFS and Year 1, your child will bring home a Big Cat or other phonic aligned reading book each week. This book will only have the sounds children have been taught in school and the purpose of children bringing this book home is to practise these skills away from the school setting. Using the skills taught in school, they should be able to read this book to you independently, albeit with some support at times. We send home one book each week and ask that you read this multiple times with your child over the course of this week - this will help your child to embed the skills they have been practising, thereby helping them to quickly become more confident in their reading skills, and allowing them to begin reading for pleasure - or reading to pursue their own interests - all the sooner. Whilst we hope you are able to share many more books with your child other than just the Big Cat book, these books are specifically written to help children practise the skills they are learning within the scheme and to help them become independent readers. With that in mind, please celebrate all the successes your child has with these books - Encourage them, support them, and make reading together as enjoyable an experience for them as you can.

Of course, we want all children to be exposed to a rich variety of stories, information texts, and other books as well, so the reading practice book is not the only book your child will bring home with them. Your child will also bring home a 'sharing' book, which they may not yet be able to read independently. The purpose of this is to allow all children to have access to other books they are interested in and would like to share with you. With these books, simply enjoy reading them together, perhaps as a bedtime story, or any other appropriate part of the day, and use this to nurture a real love of reading with your child.

Reading Scheme



In summary:

- ❖ Children will bring home 1 Big Cat Book each week, matched to their current reading skill.
- ❖ We ask that children complete 1 Big Cat book per week, in addition to further reading.
- ❖ Parents should record in a child's reading diary to demonstrate what they have read. This does not require a detailed comment unless you wish to share something with the class teacher. The title of the book and the pages read is sufficient.
- ❖ The number of times a parent has recorded in the reading record will be counted up.
- ❖ Children will win prizes based on the number of reads recorded throughout the year.
- ❖ Where Big Cat books are severely damaged, we ask for a parental donation to replace it. These books were funded through SMILE and the school will struggle to replace these.

At Moulsham Infant School we use Big Cat books alongside some other matched decodable books as a reading scheme throughout the whole school, from EYFS up to Year 2. This means that we can have a clear and guided progression of reading texts for all children throughout their time at Moulsham Infants. These are banded by colour, with children starting off their reading journey with Pink banded books in EYFS, which focus on basic narratives using the first sounds children will be learning to read, and finishing at Lime in Year 2. Throughout this scheme children will encounter many different genres of text from classic tales retold to non-fiction.

We encourage all children to read widely alongside the reading practice books, but we ask that they complete one reading practice book a week. By doing this, you know your child will always be reading at least 1 text appropriate to their current fluency level. In doing this, we can allow children to choose their alternative texts more freely and without you worrying that they are always choosing 'so-called easier options'. We firmly believe that children should be challenged in their reading and pushed to try new texts, new authors, and new genres, but we know that children must also be allowed to dip back into their reading comfort zones and read purely for joy as well. A varied reading diet is a healthy reading diet.

If a reading practice book is seriously damaged, we ask that a parent makes a donation to replace it. We could only afford to put this scheme in place thanks to large contributions from SMILE, and we want to ensure all children have the same opportunity to read these books as they move through the school.

It is worth mentioning here that, much like during their first few years at school, we expect children to not only be reading a reading practice book but to also have other books purely to read for their own enjoyment, and to pursue their own interests. These can be borrowed from school, books from the library, or books from home as well.

Reading Rewards

20 Reads: a sticker

50 Reads: a sticker and bookmark

100 Reads: a sticker and certificate

200 Reads: a sticker and reading superstar pencil

300 Reads: a free book!