



St Barnabas

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear parents and carers,

As we mentioned in the newsletter last week, we have introduced a new phonics scheme - 'Little Wandle.' This scheme has a greater emphasis on reading fluently and we feel it will help the children to make the transition from sounding out to reading words and sentences fluently and with understanding.

There is a really useful parents section on the website that shows you how we say the sounds, how we teach tricky words and also reading.

www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/

A lot of things will remain the same. The children are continuing to have daily phonics sessions. Each sound that we teach to begin with has either a picture or a phrase like boing-boing for 'oi' which helps the children recognise and remember the graphemes. Every time we teach a new sound, we also read words during the phonics lesson that contain that new sound, so that the children practise what they have learned. We then go on to reading a sentence containing some of those words. We will have displays in the classroom and on the tables to support the children throughout the day. As they learn different spellings for the same sound, they 'grow the code' and learn to use grapheme charts to help them choose the right spelling.

The new scheme teaches the children to apply their phonics knowledge to tricky words and explains why the word is tricky.

The biggest and most exciting change is to our reading sessions. These will be timetabled three times a week and taught by a trained member of staff in small groups.

The children read the same book three times in a week. The first time we work on decoding (sounding out) the words, the second time we work on reading with expression and the third time we look at comprehension (understanding what they have read.) They read the books three times at school because we want to develop the children's ability to read smoothly and without having to sound out (fluency.) The more children see words, the more they begin to read them automatically without having to sound them out.

We have assessed all the children to ensure that they are given books that are carefully matched to their current reading level. **If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading so they can read with understanding.**

Once we have read the book three times in school we will send it home for a week. Please listen to them read the book at least three times over the week. Remember to give them lots of praise –

Barnabas, the Encourager

celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together. Please make sure the books come back into school as set out by your class teacher.

After Christmas we will also be sending home sharing books for you to read with your child.

We assess your child every six weeks to check progress. Any child who needs extra support has daily keep-up sessions planned for them.

We will be holding Stay and Learn sessions to show you our phonics lessons in action. Please refer to the newsletter from 19th November for dates.

<https://stbarnabasprimary.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Newsletter-19th-November-2021-.pdf>

We look forward to seeing you then. If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to talk to your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Bruce and Miss Curry
Reading Leaders