



## Reading at Garlinge:

Dear parents and carers,

Last summer, we adopted a new synthetic phonics scheme, *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* as our previous scheme, *Letters and Sounds*, had been discontinued by the Department for Education. Little Wandle is a complete systematic synthetic phonics programme (SSP) developed for schools by schools. It is based on the original 'Letters and Sounds' programme but has been extensively revised to provide a complete teaching programme.

In line with our new phonics programme, reading books have also changed slightly for children in Reception and Year 1. Children will now be issued with two reading books, one to share with their parents and a numbered book that corresponds to the phonic stage that they are able to read independently. These books are numbered: F, 2,3,4 or 5 and link to the various phonic stages that the children are taught throughout their learning journey in Reception and Key Stage One. These reading books aim to develop fluency, so children should be able to read around 90% of the book independently through blending the words. Once children have a good grasp of their phonics within their phase, they will be assessed by their class teacher and will progress on to the next Little Wandle phase. Once your child has a good understanding of phase 5, which is the last phase of synthetic phonics teaching, they will then progress to a coloured reading band book. Please click on the link to see our reading progression document: <https://www.garlingeprimary.co.uk/website-content/reading-progression-at-garlinge-1651680090.pdf>

We encourage parents to read as often as possible (at least three times a week) with their child as lots of practise is essential to build up fluency and understanding. If you have any other questions or queries regarding your child's reading book or level, please speak to your child's teacher and they will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have. Further information can also be found on the school website: <https://www.garlingeprimary.co.uk/english> or at <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/> .

Many thanks,

Mr Ian Millership

(English subject leader for Garlinge Primary School and Nursery)