



St John's Gosport C of E (VA) Primary School

Grove Road, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 4JH
www.st-johns-gosport.hants.sch.uk
adminoffice@st-johns-gosport.hants.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Carolyn Wilkinson
School Business Manager: Mrs Hannah Bonwick
Acting Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Gemma Havey

Telephone: 02392 582404

Dear Parents/Guardians

The teaching of reading at St Johns C of E Primary School in Reception and Key Stage 1

To further develop our phonics teaching, we have recently adopted 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' as our new phonics and early reading programme. This is a systematic synthetic phonic programme which enables teachers to support children in developing their phonic knowledge – and securing the word recognition skills – to support them as fluent readers. Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 are taught daily phonics and children in Key Stage 2, who require additional support with their reading access, receive keep up interventions which are delivered by highly trained staff. These changes have been made inline with new government expectations and research carried out by the Department for Education on the teaching of early reading.

How do we teach reading in books?

Reading practise sessions are:

- Timetables 3 times per week
- Taught by a trained teacher or trained support assistant
- Taught 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 focus on Prosody (which is reading with expression – making the book sound more interesting with a story telling voice); and the third time, we look at comprehension. We read the book three times at school because we want to develop the children's fluency. The more children see words, the more they begin to read them automatically without having to sound them out.

Reading Books

We use assessment to match your child to a book at the appropriate level. Reading a book at the correct level means your child should be able to do the following:

- Know all sounds and tricky words in the book well



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- Read many of the words by silent blending (in their head) their reading will be automatic
- Only need to stop and sound out about 5% of the words by time they bring the book home – they should be able to do this one on their own

There are three types of book your child will bring home throughout the year:

- A reading practice book (Little Wandle) matched to your child's phonic stage that they can read independently
- A 'Love to Read' book that they can talk about and enjoy with their parent/guardian
 - A library book to share and enjoy

The reading practice book (Little Wandle)

Your child should be able to read this fluently and independently. This book has been carefully matched to your child's current phonic stage based on recent assessments. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it is '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 and celebrate their success! If they cannot read a word, read it to them. After they have finished reading, talk about the book together.

The 'Love to Read' book

If children are to become lifelong readers it is essential that they are encouraged to read for pleasure. To help foster a love of reading, children will choose a book to share and enjoy with you at home. Please note, your child is not expected to read this book independently. The book is to read with or to your child. Again, it is good to talk about the book with your child, but important not to turn the discussion into a test. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters and explore facts in non-fiction books. The goal is enjoyment! You may recognise the books as they are our old colour banded books.



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Home School Book Agreement

As a school, we have invested a lot of money in high quality phonic books for our pupils. We ask that you respect these books and look after them properly, that they are returned on the days requested and water bottles are not stored in book bags as we have had lots of books spoiled in the past by spillages. Of course, accidents happen but please take care. Each book costs between £4.50 - £5.50. Should any books be damaged or lost, they will need to be replaced. Therefore, if this were to occur, we would request that the cost of the book be covered by the family.

It is essential that books are returned promptly to ensure all children can take home the book they have read in school during the week.

Reading books will be distributed and returned on certain days (this will be decided by the Class Teacher and will be in your first news letter). This means that the children will not be changing books as frequently as before. Once the Little Wandle system is up and running children will also bring their 'Love to Read' book and their library book home. There is an expectation that pupils at St John's continue to read regularly at home. Reading the same book multiple times will allow your child to become more fluent, practice their expression when reading aloud and develop a deeper understanding of the text.

Over the next two weeks we will invite parents in to give further information regarding the new scheme and the way we deliver our phonics and reading sessions. You will also be able to find details on our school website shortly.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Stock (Phonics and Early Reading Lead)



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