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Dear Parent/carers,

Phonics and Reading

At Firbeck, "Reading is the heart of the curriculum" (Ofsted, June 2023). We strive to instil a love of reading into our pupils.

In Nursery, children are taught the 7 aspects of phonics before moving onto recognising letters. Over 2 weeks, the children engage with a traditional nursery rhyme and develop their understanding of this using the 7 aspects:

- Environmental sounds
- Instrumental sounds
- Body percussion
- Rhythm and Rhyme
- Alliteration
- Voice sounds
- Oral blending and segmenting

In Reception, children have a daily phonics session where they begin to develop their Grapheme Phoneme Correspondence. This is when children begin to recognise the relationship between a phoneme (sound) and the grapheme (picture). Once children are confident to recognise phonemes this then supports their ability to decode and blend words, as well as making them fluent readers.

In Year 1, children continue to have a daily phonics session to further develop their decoding and blending skills to develop them into fluent readers. In June children in Year 1 undertake a phonics screening to check their phonics knowledge. Please see the link if you would like some additional information. [Phonics screening check: information for parents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/phonics-screening-check-information-for-parents)

In Year 2, children continue to develop and further their phonetic skills during phonics sessions and spelling sessions to develop fluency when reading.

In Year 3 to Year 6 children have daily reading sessions where they continue to build on their fluency as well as developing knowledge and breadth of different texts.

In Key Stage one the reading sessions link to the book sent home. It is therefore critical that this along with reading diaries are in school each day.

All children will visit the school library every week, where they are able to loan a book of their choice. Please ensure you liaise with your class teacher to know when your child needs to return their book.

Children across the Key Stage one and two have the opportunity to visit Wollaton Library once a term where they are able to choose another book for pleasure.

Please read with your child everyday at home, this could be their school reading book, library book or book for pleasure.

At the start of the academic year, every child is given a home school diary and a reading book appropriate for their level of reading. Please respect these items.

If for any reason your child's home school diary, reading book or library book is lost or broken, please note their will be a cost to support us in replacing these.

Later this half term we will be holding some parent information workshops linked to phonics and supporting your child's reading at home. Please look out for the dates for these so you can set some time aside to attend.

Links for Parental Access

[For parents | Letters and Sounds \(littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk\)](https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk)

- Here you can access the Little Wandle website to find out more about the scheme and also find resources to support you and your child at home. You can access nursery rhymes and videos of the correct pronunciation of pure sounds.

[phonics games - Topmarks Search](#)

- Here you can access a range of phonics games to support your child at home.

[Phonics Games for the Classroom and Home - Phonics Bloom](#)

- Here you can access a range of phonics games to support your child at home.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Firbeck Academy