

Early Reading at Russell Hall - Reception and Key Stage 1

10.09.21

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to explain some changes that we are making at Russell Hall School to the way in which we teach early reading. Early reading is taught at Russell Hall through a daily phonics lesson and 3 sessions of guided reading per week. We also encourage children to read independently and share stories in class each day.

At the end of the last school year the DfE announced that they were making changes to the current SSP (Systematic Synthetic Phonics) programme that we used in school- 'Letters and Sounds'. This year in school we will be introducing a new SSP 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds'. Phonics will be taught in the same way as we have previously but there will be a slight change in how we want the children to read at home.

The children will now take two books home to read. The first book will be a 'reading for pleasure' book of the child's own choice. This is a book that should be shared together and read to the child where possible, we would also encourage the child to talk about the pictures and retell in their own words.

The second book will be matched to their phonic ability. This book should be easily decodable and the children should be able to read it with minimal support. This book will be kept for a week and the child will follow a '3 Read' format. The child will be expected to read the book 3 times at home, each time focusing on a different element of reading. Read 1 - decoding the book (sounding it out), read 2 - prosody (reading with expression) and read 3- comprehension. There is a detailed instruction sheet in your child's reading record which explains how to do this.

In the next few weeks I am planning a parent's event after school to explain this process in more detail and I urge you to attend with any questions you have.

Regards

Miss Bailey
Deputy Headteacher