

Padnell Infant School

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Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope this letter finds you well. We want to take this opportunity to explain to you more fully the changes in the way we will be supporting your child in learning to read and write.

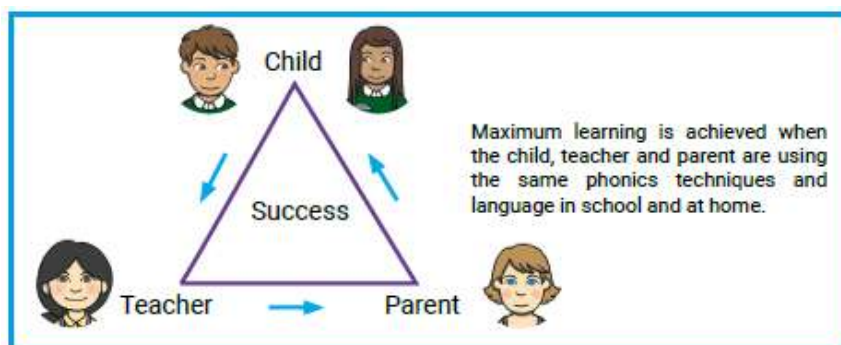
Last spring, the government directed all schools to follow one of a selection of phonics-based schemes, which they had carefully chosen and validated. Having reviewed our provision and consulted with local authority advisors, we chose Twinkl phonics. This scheme was most in line with what we already did as a school and enabled us to incorporate our existing reading books, which were already carefully grouped, so that they aligned with our phonics teaching.

This is important as it helps the children to practise and apply the phonemes (sounds) and graphemes (letters) they are learning in school.

Setting up this scheme across the school requires a number of changes and also your continued support at home, which we know is invaluable. We believe strongly that teaching children to read is one of the most important things we do.

“The whole world opened up to me when I learned to read” – Mary McCleod Bethune

This is where we really need your support!



Each week on a Thursday your child's teacher will add to Seesaw:

- An electronic 'mini book' which helps your child practise the new phonemes and/or grapheme of the week in a real life context.
- A parent information sheet which: shares the phonemes and graphemes your child has been learning that week and the common exception words (*words that do not follow phonics rules*) your child has been learning to read or spell that week.

Please take time to read and enjoy this electronic book with your child and add your reading to Seesaw, including any observations you have made linked to this. We hope that by having these books easily accessible on any electronic device e.g. your phone, it will make it easier to fit this into everyday life. Maybe you could read your child's electronic book together while waiting for a bus or for a sibling to finish a club? **Doing this weekly will have a huge impact in helping them to remember and retain the learning they have done in school.**

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Recognising also the value of reading a 'real book' and listening to your feedback, we will also continue to send children home with a 'real book,' which matches their reading level. This book will provide an additional opportunity for your child to practise and revise previous learning. This can be changed whenever your child becomes fluent reading it although we recommend children read their books a few times before they change them so that they can focus on decoding and comprehension.

At the recent 'Meet the teacher evenings' and in the 'Home/school agreement' you signed when joining our school, we asked that you read at home at least four times a week and ideally, this will include reading with your child in both of these ways. However, using the electronic book to revise and apply their new learning will be the most powerful way you can support them to learn the most essential skill of reading.

We are understanding of the busy lives you all lead and so in order to gain your full support, and keep learning to read "at the heart" of everything, we are no longer going to send home additional weekly home learning. Instead, we strongly encourage you to complete the phonic based activities which can be found each week at the bottom of the parent information sheet. These activities will help your child consolidate the weeks learning. Please can this be completed, photographed and uploaded to Seesaw in the same way homework was (by Tuesday of the next week).

Your first mini book and Parent information sheet will be uploaded today. Please log on and have a look. If you have any problems logging into Seesaw, or do not have an electronic device that will open any of the documents please see your class teacher as soon as possible. This way we can work together to resolve any issues and work around any barriers, ensuring your child has access to these important resources as soon as possible.

A few children will receive an alternative provision, providing resources more in line with their current attainment.

Please bear with us as we too settle into this new system and thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,
The Padnell Team

Our Padnell promise to be a: **G**iving citizen
Resilient learner
Original thinker
Wise worker

