

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." Dr Seuss.



Reception English Home Support Pack 2023/24



Phonics at Brecknock

In line with the DfE's new national guidance around early reading and the role of validated systematic synthetic phonics programmes, we are now following the Little Wandle phonics programme. Little Wandle parent/home resources can be found from page 4 of this pack.



What exactly is phonics?

Words are made from small units of sound called **phonemes**. Phonics lessons teach children how to listen carefully and identify the phonemes that make up each word. This helps children to learn to first read and then spell words.

Phonics is recommended as the **first strategy** children should be taught in helping them **learn to read**. It runs alongside other teaching methods such as Guided Reading and shared reading to help children develop all the other vital reading skills and foster within them a love of reading.

In phonics lessons children are taught three main things:

GPCs - This stands for grapheme phoneme correspondences. This simply means that they are taught all the phonemes in the English language and ways of writing them down. These sounds are taught in a particular order.

Blending - children are taught to blend. This is when they say the sounds that make up a word and are able to merge the sounds together until they can hear what the word is. This skill is vital in learning to read.

Segmenting - children are also taught to segment. This is the opposite of blending. Children are able to say a word and then break it up into the phonemes that make it up. This skill is vital in being able to spell words.

What makes phonics tricky?

In some languages learning phonics is easy because each phoneme has a single grapheme to represent it. The English language is a bit more complicated. This is largely because it has been influenced by many different cultures and so is a blend of Germanic, Romance and Latinate languages. As a result, although English only has around 44 phonemes there are around 120 graphemes (ways of writing down those 44 phonemes). Of course, we only have 26 letters in the alphabet so some graphemes are made up from more than one letter.

Digraphs are graphemes made up of two letters.

ch th oo ay

Trigraphs are graphemes made up of three letters.

ear air ure

Split digraphs are separated/split by a letter but still make one sound.

a-e in *make* and *cake*

i-e in *nice* and *bike* e-e in *even* and *Steven*

o-e in *phone* home-u-e in *cute* *flute*

Another slightly sticky problem is that some graphemes can represent more than one phoneme. For example, ch makes very different sounds in these three words:

chip

school

chef

These tricky bits mean that it is even more important that we teach phonics and that children learn it clearly and systematically. A written language is essentially a form of a code. Teaching phonics is teaching children to crack that code. Children learn the simple bits first and then can easily progress on to the trickier bits.

Phonics for Writing

When writing, children have to listen to the whole word and segment it into its individual phonemes. We use the sound mats to help the children locate and choose the correct sound to help them spell and write.

Eg; *sat* s-a-t

Little Wandle Parent Resources

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>






Follow the link above or click [here](#) for the Little Wandle parent page.

The resources on this page will help you support your child with saying their sounds and writing their letters.

There are also some useful videos so you can see how they are taught at school and feel confident about supporting their reading at home.

On the Little Wandle parent page, you will find:

- **Sound guides** with helpful pronunciation and formation phrases

Grapheme and mnemonic	Picture card	Pronunciation phrase	Formation phrase
 	 snake	Show your teeth and and let the s hiss out ssssss ssssss	Under the snake's chin, slide down and round its tail.

- **Capital letter** formation phrases

Letter	Capital letter formation phrase
A	From the top, diagonally down to the left, up to the top, diagonally down to the right. Lift up and across.

- **Helpful how to videos** on GPC pronunciation, alien words, tricky words and blending.



A quick guide to alien words



How we teach tricky words



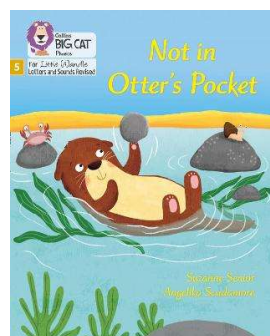
How we teach blending

- **Programme Overview** with GPC and tricky word progression.

Reception

Autumn 1 Phase 2 graphemes s a t p i n m d g o c k c k e u r h b f l	New tricky words is I the
Autumn 2 Phase 2 graphemes ff ll ss j v w x y z zz qu ch sh th ng nk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words with -s /s/ added at the end (hats sits) • words ending in s /z/ (his) and with -s /z/ added at the end (bags sings) 	New tricky words put* pull* full* as and has his her go no to into she push* he of we me be

- Information on the **Little Wandle Big Cat Collins** phonics books and how to use them.





Reception Grapheme Mat

Grapheme mat

Phase 2 and 3

s ss	t tt	p pp	n nn	m mm	d dd	g gg	c ck cc	r rr
h	b bb	f ff	l ll	j jj	v vv	w	x	y
z zz s	qu	ch	sh	th	ng	nk		

a	e	i	o	u
---	---	---	---	---

ai	ee	igh	oa	oo	oo	ar
or	ur	er	ow	oi	ear	air

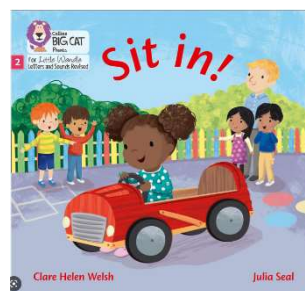
Reading for Meaning and Pleasure at Brecknock



At Brecknock, we are passionate about children's reading and ensure that our curriculum is rooted in plentiful opportunities for rich text exploration. Children's daily reading at home is crucial to growth as readers and writers.

Reading for Pleasure

Little Wandle Phonics:
Revised Letters and Sounds



Phonics books follow the Little Wandle scheme, meaning that children are always matched with books that only contain sounds that they have learnt. This means that they can read these books to you with developing fluency!

Reading for pleasure books are completely different. They should be a celebration of character, plot, text, pictures and imagination! These can be read to, and with, children.

Book Talk

Talking to your child about the book they are reading is essential for helping them *make sense of text* and nurturing a love of reading .

It helps children to *trust their own ideas* and interpretations, to talk effectively about a book, *deepening their understanding* , shifting their ideas, thinking together as a group and moving comprehension forwards.

It can open up new worlds for children, giving them the opportunity to use their imagination to explore new ideas, visit new places and meet new characters. It also improves children's *well-being and empathy* . It helps them to understand their *own identity*, and gives them an insight into the world and the *views of others*.



Reading Challenges!

Use your favourite toys to tell a story, then ask your grown-ups to film you telling your story and put it on Tapestry.



CHALLENGE – Can you include story language and different voices for the characters?

How many of our favourite picture books have you read?

The Day the Crayons Quit by Oliver Jeffers

The Cat in the Hat by Dr Seuss

We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen

Would You Rather by John Burningham

Duck in the Truck by Jez Alborough

Rosie Revere, Engineer by Andrea Beaty

The Opposite by Tom MacRae



Sentence Snip – Ask your grown-up to write a simple sentence on a strip of paper. Cut it up into words and get them to hide it around your home.

Can you find all of the words and put the sentence back together?

Use your Sound Mat to practise saying the sounds and reading the 'Tricky Words'.

CHALLENGE – Can you be curious and find the sounds and 'Tricky Words' in your story books?

Grapheme mat								Phase 2 and 3	
S	s	t	p	n	m	d	g	c	r
ss	tt	pp	nn	mm	dd	gg	ck	ck	rr
h	b	f	l	j	v	w	x	y	
bb	ff	ll	jj	vv	ww	xx	yy		
z	qu	ch	sh	th	ng	nk			
zz									
s									

Sound Hunt – Choose a Tricky Word from your Sound Mat. Ask your grown-ups to set a timer and then see how many times you can write it in 2 minutes.

CHALLENGE – Can you write it in a sentence?

Read your levelled phonics book for ten minutes every day.

CHALLENGE – Can you re-tell the story/recall the facts in your own words?



Picture Book Prompts

Does this picture remind you of anything you have seen before?	Can you smell anything inside this picture?	How does this page make you feel? Why?
How would you describe the colours in this picture?	Is there anything unusual about this picture?	If you were able to hear sounds in the picture, what would it be?
What is important in the picture? How does the illustrator show this?	What has happened before this picture?	What do you think will happen in the next picture?
Can you describe the characters on this page? What do they look like?	What is happening on this page?	Does anything in the picture remind you of another book? Or your own life?

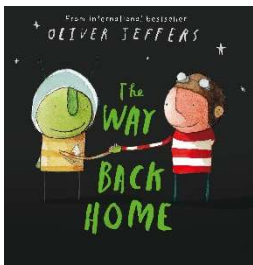


Picture Book Recommendations



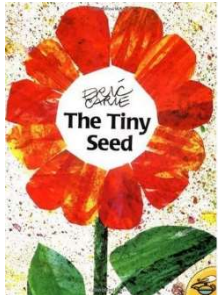
Greta and the Giants by Zoe Tucker

Greta is a little girl who lives in a beautiful forest threatened by Giants. When the Giants first came to the forest, they chopped down trees to make houses. Then they chopped down more trees and made even bigger homes. The houses grew into towns and the towns grew into cities, until now there is hardly any forest left. Greta knows she has to help the animals who live in the forest, but how? Luckily, Greta has an idea.



The Way Back Home by Oliver Jeffers

We don't think you could go wrong with any Oliver Jeffers book! One day, a boy finds an aeroplane in his cupboard. Up, up, up and away he flies, high into the sky. Whizzing past clouds, stars and planets until suddenly, he runs out of petrol. Miles from Earth, the boy crashes onto the moon and waits ... we'll let you read the rest!



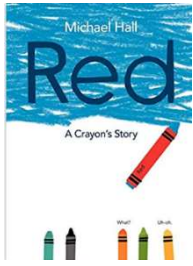
The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle

This is the story of how a tiny seed travels from its parent plant and blows across seas, deserts and mountains, braving many hazards along the way, before finally finding a place to settle and grow into a beautiful flower so that the story can start again. A beautiful and uplifting story



The Story Machine by Tom Hughes

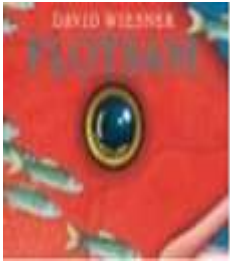
Elliott stumbles across a machine. At first, he can't work out what the machine is for. then, quite by accident, Elliott makes the machine work. The machine makes letters! Elliott thinks it must be a story machine but, sadly, Elliott isn't very good at letters and words. But, wait, some of the letters look like pictures. Elliott is good at pictures and, as he discovers, pictures make stories



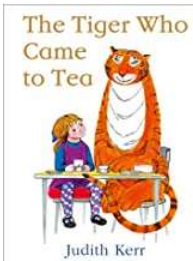
Red - A Crayon's Story by Michael Hall

This funny, heart-warming, colourful picture book about finding the courage to be true to your inner self can be read on multiple levels, and it offers something for everyone.

Flotsam by David Wiesner

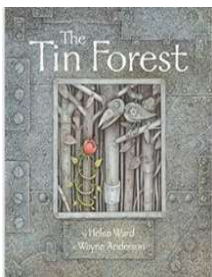


A bright boy goes to the beach equipped to collect and examine flotsam—anything floating that has been washed ashore. Bottles, lost toys, small objects of every description are among his usual finds. But there's no way he could have prepared for one particular discovery: a barnacle-encrusted underwater camera, with its own secrets to share . . . and to keep.



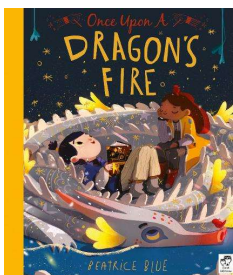
The Tiger Who Came to Tea by Judith Kerr

This classic story of Sophie and her extraordinary teatime guest has been loved by millions of children since it was first published more than fifty years ago. The doorbell rings just as Sophie and her mummy are sitting down to tea. Who could it possibly be? What they certainly don't expect to see at the door is a big furry, stripy tiger!



The Tin Forest by Helen Ward

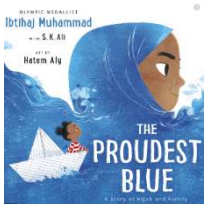
"There was once a wide, windswept place, near nowhere and close to forgotten that was filled with all the things that no one wanted." So begins Helen Ward's tale of the Tin Forest where an old man lives who tidies the rubbish and dreams of a better place. With faith, ingenuity and hard work, he transforms a junkyard into a wonderland in this poetic modern fable



Once Upon A Dragon's Fire by Beatrice Blue

We loved studying this bold, exciting and truly beautiful story on World Book Day this year. Do you know how dragons got their fire? It all began once upon a magic kingdom, when a fearsome, terrifying dragon stalked the land. Or so the stories said. When two children called Freya and Syllas met the dragon, they found something very different indeed.

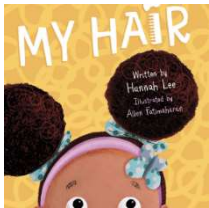
Black and Asian Authors/Protagonists at Brecknock



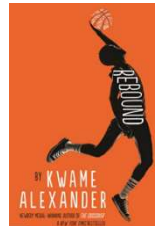
Ibtihaj Muhammed
The Proudest Blue (all ages)



David Olusoga
Black and British (Upper KS2)



Hannah Lee
My Hair (all ages)



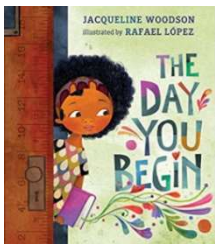
Kwame Alexander
Rebound (Upper KS2)



Vashti Harrison
Little Leaders in Black History (all ages)



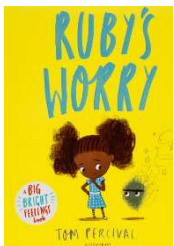
Nathan Bryon
Look Up! (all ages)



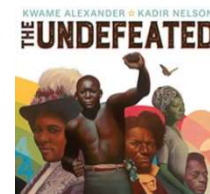
Jacqueline Woodson
The Day You Begin (all ages)



Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock
Grand Tour of the Solar System (all ages)



Ruby's Worry
Tom Percival himself is not from a black or Asian background but we love his story about brave Ruby.



Kwame Alexander
The Undeclared (KS2)



Zanib Mian
Planet Omar (KS2)



Joseph Coelho
Grandpa's Stories (all ages)

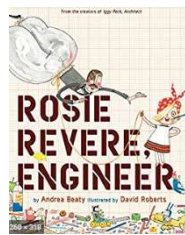
Writing Challenges!

Draw a picture of your family and label it with their names.

CHALLENGE – Can you write a fact sheet about the members of your family? What is their favourite food? What do they like to do in their spare time? How old are they?



Choose your favourite book and write a review about it to recommend it to your friends.



Keep a diary of what you are doing each day. Write a label/caption/sentence and draw a picture to share with your friends when you come back to school.



Write a letter or postcard and send it to your friend. Don't forget to ask them to write back to you! Ask your grown-up to get the address.



Use your Sound Mat to practise writing the sounds and 'Tricky Words'.

CHALLENGE – Can you write a word for each of your sounds?

Grapheme mat							Phase 2 and 3		
S	t	p	n	m	d	g	c	r	
s	t	p	n	m	d	g	c	r	
ss	tt	pp	nn	mm	dd	gg	ck	rr	
							ck	cc	
h	b	f	l	j	v	w	x	y	
h	bb	ff	ll	jj	vv	ww	xx	yy	
z	qu	ch	sh	th	ng	nk			
zz	qu	ch	sh	th	ng	nk			
s									

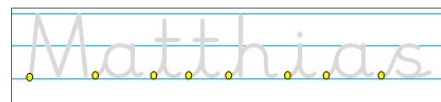
Take some photos or a video of what you have been doing at home and upload it on to Tapestry.

CHALLENGE – Can you write a sentence to go with your photo/video?



Use your Name Card to practise tracing your name.

CHALLENGE – Can you write your name without looking at your Name Card?



Use your favourite toys to tell a story and then ask your grown-up to film you telling your story and put it on Tapestry.

CHALLENGE – Can you use the Story Mountain to plan your story? Draw and label your ideas on the plan.

Reading Links

Little Wandle parent page <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

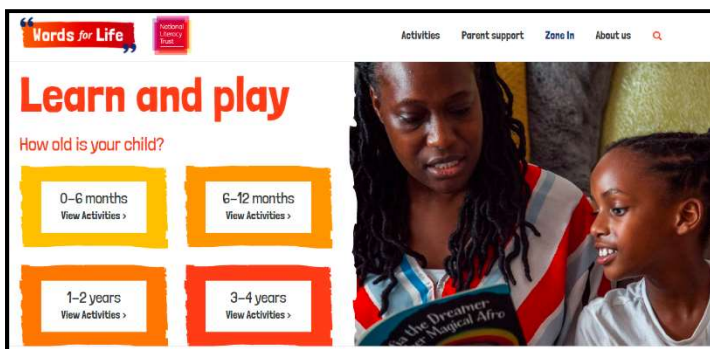
- The Literacy Trust The Bookfinder is great for helping you and your child choose texts www.booktrust.org.uk/books/bookfinder/
- World Book Day website has year round activities and competitions <http://www.worldbookday.com/>
- The Oxford Owl sign up for free access to hundreds of online texts <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>
- Keep an eye out for the annual Summer Reading Challenge <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>
- <https://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/helpAHedgehog/index.html>
- Fairy Tales <http://fairytales.lgfl.org.uk/>
- Talking Stories <http://stories.lgfl.org.uk/>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/b00jdlm2/ceebies-bedtime-stories>

Writing Links

- Get free home access to practise handwriting on the Letterjoin website <https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/>
- The Oxford Owl offers nice ideas and activities for writing at home <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/at-school/writing-at-primary-school/>
- The Woodlands website offers lots of free grammar and spelling activities <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/literacy/>
- The Literacy Shed offers picture and video stimuli for creative writing. <https://www.literacyshed.com/>

Useful Websites to help you with your child's learning and development

Words for life from The Literacy Trust has activities for all age groups



Little Wandle Synthetic Phonics

Programme



Hungry Little Minds: fun activities



Listen Up: Communication games and activities



Listen Up

Being able to communicate is not just about talking.

Along with getting your own message across, being able to listen, pay attention, interact, play and understand what's being said are the fundamental building blocks of communication.

This pack explains more about these important skills and contains lots of activities to help you and your child. This can help them learn, make friends and have fun.

Speech Sounds
Interaction and Talking
Understanding
Play
Attention and Listening

Book Trust: tips for reading with your child

