



SOUTH WILFORD

Endowed C of E Primary School

9th September 2025

Dear parents and carers,

We want to explain a little about how your child will learn to read with us here at South Wilford. Seeing children develop as readers always gives us a real buzz and we hope that you will also be filled with excitement as your child begins to learn to read for themselves. It's such an exciting time!

Your child will be taught Phonics as the primary strategy for reading and writing. They will have a 20 minute phonics lesson every day during which they will learn a new 'phoneme' (sound) and 'grapheme' (letter shape) along with an action and ditty to help them to remember it. They will learn to 'blend' (push together) these phonemes to read words e.g. *b-i-g* → *big*, and 'segment' (sound out) the phonemes in words to spell them e.g. *p-o-t* → *pot*. Your child will also be taught one new 'tricky' word each week in their phonics lessons. These are non decodable words such as 'I' and 'the'. We will talk in more detail about all of this in our upcoming phonics information session.

After a few weeks of being in school, your child will bring home their first reading book. These books will contain the letter sounds that your child has been taught in school so far. The book will only contain fully decodable words i.e. words like 'hen' along with any tricky words they have learnt. This means that children can work out the unknown words by recognising and saying the corresponding sound for each letter shape they point at in the word and then blending the sounds together to read the word. The books in our reading scheme are lovely and the illustrations really help to turn the simple sentences into engaging stories.

Please read with your child a minimum of three times a week. These sessions don't have to be long. Your child is likely to be really tired after a full day at school so it is best to keep these sessions short and sweet! Five minutes of focused time is plenty with young children. You can also practise reading and spelling simple words with the letter sound tiles and 'tricky words' that we send home with your child which helps vary things a bit!

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Your child will receive one reading book each week which we want them to read numerous times. Repeated reading really supports a child's confidence. The book becomes far less daunting if it has been seen a few times before and this helps children develop a positive attitude towards reading as they aren't always thinking it will be hard work. Repeated reading also supports comprehension and enjoyment because the child is able to concentrate more on the story and less on the decoding of each word. Repeated reading also supports fluency (speed) and word recognition as the child becomes increasingly familiar with the words in their book. You'll hopefully see a difference in the speed in which your child reads their book from the first time they read it to the last. Good readers are fast readers who read with pace and expression and we encourage this right from the very beginning of children learning to read.

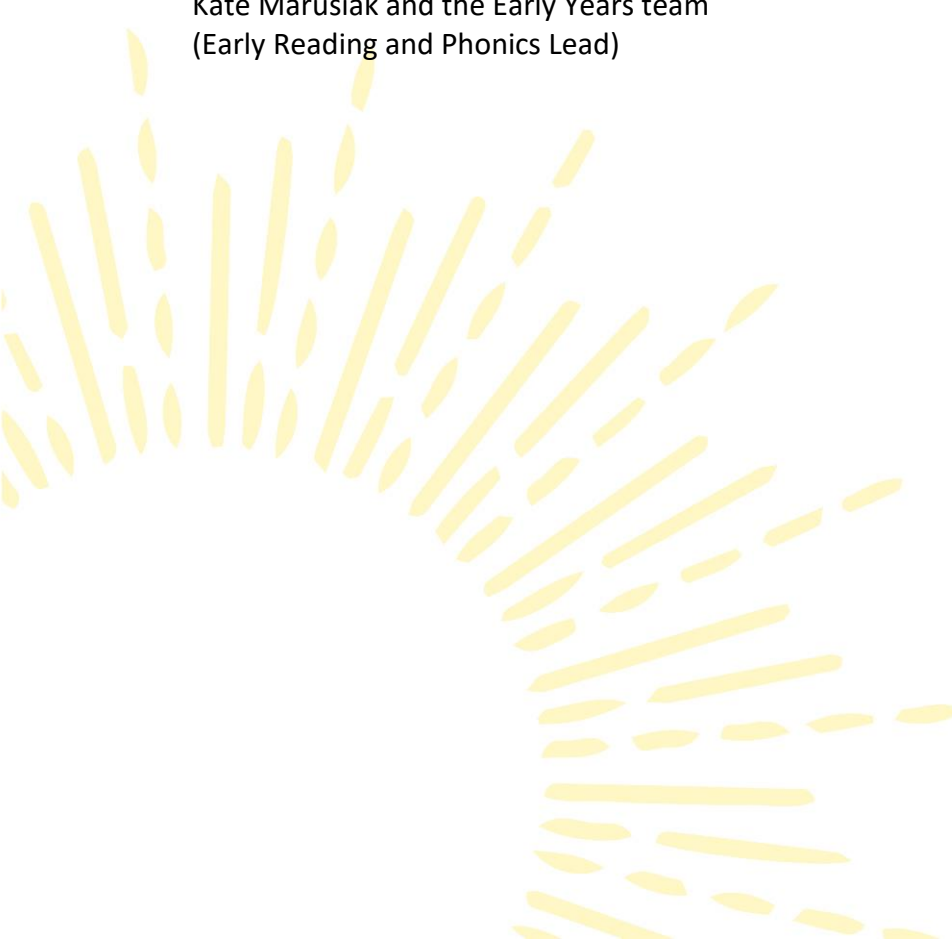
Reading for pleasure

In addition to a phonics book, children will also bring home a free choice reading for pleasure book. This book is for you to read to them and is for pure enjoyment rather than for reading practise.

If you have any questions about phonics or early reading, these can be answered at our **Phonics Information Session for Parents' at 9am - 10am on Tuesday 30th September.** This will be available electronically for those of you who are unable to attend in person. In the meantime, please rest assured that your child has started on their reading journey with their daily phonics lessons in class and in a few weeks' time they will come home with a school reading book.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Marusiak and the Early Years team
(Early Reading and Phonics Lead)





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