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Little Wandle & Collins Big Cat E-Library

Dear Parents/Carers,

As promised, we are writing to let you know more details about how to use the E-library linked to our new phonics and early reading programme - 'Little Wandle - Letters and Sounds'. The children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 have started using the new books in school over the last week or so and we are now ready to share their user details with you so that you can access the books they have read, from home. All login details (username and passwords) have been handed out to the children today – so please do look in their book bags to find them. The e-library can be found at:

<https://ebooks.collinsopenpage.com/>

As previously mentioned, the reading books run alongside our phonics programme. Once children have a **secure** knowledge of a number of phonemes and are confidently blending, they will be ready for reading books. Prior to this they will be using wordless books to develop great language skills and teach children the layout of books and how to handle books.

Within school, the children will have had 2-3 group reading sessions a week with a teacher or TA before they have the ebook available to them. These reading books have been matched, as a result of half termly assessments, to their **secure** phonics knowledge. Each reading session in school will focus on different things:

1. Decoding - The children will look through the tricky words and any new vocabulary and have an opportunity to read the book to decode the words.
2. Prosody - In this session they read the book again but the focus is on building expression and intonation.
3. Comprehension - In this final session the children will learn to answer questions about the text. They will be asked to prove it and explain it and use examples from the text to help back up their answers.

In each session, the children will all read the book aloud and the adult will circulate and listen to all of them. This means they have had lots of opportunities to practise and build fluency so that when it becomes available to you at home at the end of the week (normally a Friday), via the E-library, the children should be 95% fluent at reading and you get the fun task of hearing them read and celebrating their success! This means it should be extremely easy for your child to read aloud. Please do not worry that a book is too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading. Re-reading a book that they have had before helps to develop fluency – this is the goal. We will leave the books on



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your child's virtual bookshelf for you to access for the whole of the half-term and will then clear these so that the bookshelf does not become too cluttered.

The parent guide, which has your user details on, explains exactly how to access the ebooks from the E-library. Please do follow these steps. On the parent guide, it does mention about the 'audio' feature; however, we would suggest that you encourage your child to read the book to you rather than using this feature. As well as accessing the E-library by the internet, you can also download the 'Collins eBooks app', which is available for iOS from the App Store. The app is free to download, and you can log in using the same details. Unfortunately, the app for Android is not yet ready; however they are in the process of developing this, which will support users of Big Cat.

If anyone has any issues with being able to access the E-library, due to device connectivity issues, then please do let us know and we will do our best to help.

In addition to the phonics reading scheme book available in the E-library, children will also bring home a 'sharing book' from our class libraries each week. We know that for children to become lifelong readers, it is essential that they read for pleasure. Children may not be able to read their 'sharing book' independently, but these books offer a wealth of opportunities for talking about the pictures, developing their vocabulary and enjoying the story or information text, which is so valuable. Simply enjoy the book together and help them to foster a love of reading. Please can we ask for your support in ensuring that these books stay in good condition by encouraging your child to really look after them. We have recently invested lots of money, some of which has been collected through school fundraising, into our book stock to engage the children with reading and we want all children to be able to access and enjoy the beautiful new books.

Can we also ask at this point that any books you currently have at home which belong to school are returned so that we can ensure we are all using our new selection of books.

Finally, could I remind everyone about the 'Extreme Reading Challenge' for our new outdoor reading area in the KS1 playground. As part of this, we would love to share some pictures of the children enjoying their favourite books and we need your help! (Note: These photos will be displayed, unnamed, in the outdoor reading area.) Simply send us a photograph of your child reading a book in an unusual position or an unusual place and show everyone how reading can be done anywhere and anytime! Please e-mail your photograph to Mrs Elliott, marked 'Extreme Reading' and look out for your photo in the new area! We can't wait to see how you get on!!

If you have any questions at all about Little Wandle, the new E-library or the Extreme Reading Challenge, then please do not hesitate to ask.

Kind Regards,

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