



The Whartons Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 1. As a team, we are excited to be working alongside you, and with your child.

Information about the class can be found on the school website

www.whartonsprimary.co.uk

A direct link to our class can be accessed here

https://www.whartonsprimary.co.uk/website/year_1-newts/225952

Alternatively, you can navigate to our page using the following tabs;

- Children and Learning
- Newts – Year 1

We also aim to update our Twitter feed regularly. Please follow us **@newtswps**.

In Year 1, a key focus for us is developing children's reading – a pivotal skill that unlocks so many doors and opens so many opportunities in life as well as providing a lifetime of pleasure for many. Your child's reading experience is much more than the reading book which comes home from school. Reading is happening all the time in the classroom and in the school. It is taught in specific reading and English lessons, but children are practising and using their 'reading' constantly across all subjects too.

At The Whartons, the key objectives in all our phonic and reading lessons are that children are taught to:

- love books and enjoy listening to stories, poems and rhymes
- read and write letter-sound correspondences quickly
- decode effortlessly, spell and handwrite easily
- comprehend what they read
- read with fluency and expression

Parents and carers have a pivotal role in supporting a child's 'reading journey' through regular reading at home. Reading to and with your child every evening for at least ten minutes can make a dramatic difference to your child's achievement within school. A report from the Oxford University Press highlights the importance of parents reading with their children when it states, 'Children who read outside of class are **13 times more likely** to read above the expected level for their age'. As





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teachers, we know from our own experiences that children who read at home progress much quicker than those who don't.

The Year 1 National Curriculum highlights not only the importance of children being able to read for themselves but also places great emphasis on children regularly hearing adults read materials to them above the level of which they can read independently. With this in mind, we would like to welcome comments in children's reading records which tell us of these shared experiences – perhaps reading the Sunday football report in the paper or sharing a recipe from an online cookery book with your child whilst making dinner!

In order to support parents further, we have supplied you with a helpful booklet full of ideas which can be used when reading with your child.

Reading Books and Reading Records in Year 1

Children have a reading record which they are required to bring to and from school every day to allow for teachers and parents/carers to comment in. As stated above, please feel free to comment on your shared reading experiences with children as well as their reading to you.

Children will be issued with a reading book for the week which they will take home and read with parents as well as sharing with adults in school. Research has shown the importance of children reading the same book more than once to ensure they can not only read the words but that they fully understand the content, meaning and text features.

An adult will change the children's books weekly. This is done at a timetabled point in the week – occasionally, due to unforeseen circumstances this may not happen at the allotted time. We will always endeavour to change them as quick as possible afterwards.

Children's reading books from school make up a very small part of their reading journey and, whilst helping children with basic decoding, are not always the most inspiring of reads! We therefore encourage you to immerse your child in a wide variety of books at home that interest them.

We will shortly be sending home an information sheet detailing an overview of your child's learning for this half-term. In the meantime, please have a look at our Class Page on the school website and our Twitter feed.

Kind Regards,

The Year 1 Team

