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English at Lenham Primary School

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we start a new academic year we have set some actions regarding English on our new School Action Plan. Linking with our PRIDE values we are always striving to ensure all children make as much progress as possible. So, I would like to share some changes with you.

1. Phonics

I sent a letter at the end of last year explaining that we are now following a phonics scheme called Little Wandle Letters and Sounds. As part of this scheme your child will have two books to read at home; a 'Love to Read' book and a 'Learn to Read' book. The 'Learn to Read' book will be a phonics book which will match your child's current phonic knowledge. They should be able to read this fluently without the need to sound many words out. The 'Learn to Read' phonics books are brand new and quite expensive. Each title is priced at £4.75 per book. Therefore, it is incredibly important that books are kept safe and returned to school. If books are damaged or lost we will have to ask that you reimburse the school.

The 'Shared Book' will be chosen for you to share with your child. This will have words that your child cannot read, so this book is about the adult reading to develop a love of reading.

We are holding a phonics session for parents on **Monday 26th September at 14:30.**

2. Spelling

We are now taking a phonics approach to our spelling. Children in Key Stage Two will be learning some more graphemes (ways sounds can be written) for the phonemes (sounds) they already know.

During the week children will investigate different graphemes for spelling words. They will be exposed to a number of words (up to 30). The week will end with a dictation opportunity where the focus is identifying the correct spelling of the phoneme. Words the children are learning will be shared on the class web page, but only 10 words will be dictated. There is no formal spelling test.

3. Pen Licenses

We have taken the decision that pen 'licenses' will no longer be awarded. We will continue to practise our handwriting and make sure our presentation is good, and all children In Year 4 will start using pens at same point in the year.

Kind regards
Mrs Fisher and Mrs McCluskey

