Luttons Phonics and Early Reading Policy

October 2026

1. Intent

At **Luttons Primary Academy**, we believe that reading is the "master skill" that unlocks the rest of the curriculum. Our intent is for every child, regardless of their starting point or background, to become a fluent, confident reader by the time they leave Key Stage 1. This enables them to transition seamlessly from "learning to read" to "reading to learn" as they progress through Key Stage 2.

- **Ambition:** We aim for at least 90% of our pupils to reach the expected standard in reading.
- **Consistency:** We utilise **Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised**, a DfE-validated Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) programme, to

ensure a unified, rigorous approach from Nursery through to Year 6.

- **Inclusion:** We prioritise "Keep-up" and "Rapid Catch-up" support to ensure that pupils with SEND and those in the first 20% are never left behind.
- **Culture:** We foster a lifelong love of reading through a rich "Reading for Pleasure" culture.

2. Implementation

Foundations: Nursery

At Luttons Primary Academy, the journey begins in our Nursery, focusing on the **Foundations for Phonics**:

- **Communication & Language:** Prioritising high-quality "back-and-forth" interactions to expand vocabulary and oral narrative.
- **Phonological Awareness:** Daily, play-based activities focusing on environmental sounds, rhythm, rhyme, and alliteration including rhyme time in Tiny Steps and Nursery.
- **Oral Blending:** Introduced systematically in Nursery to prime children for discrete phonics in Reception.
- **Rich Text Environment:** Children are immersed in our 'Reading Spine' a curated list of high-quality picture books, nursery rhymes, and poems.

Reception & Year 1: Daily Discrete Phonics

- **Lesson Structure:** We follow the Little Wandle daily lesson structure: **Review & Revisit, Teach & Practise, Practise & Apply, Review.**
- **Pace:** Formal Phonics teaching begins in Week 2 of Reception. We follow the Little Wandle progression strictly to ensure all GPC (Grapheme-Phoneme Correspondence) code is covered.
- **Reading Practice Sessions:** Three times a week, children read in small groups with a trained Luttons adult. These sessions focus on **Decoding, Prosody (expression), and Comprehension**.
- **Decodable Books:** Children take home a Little Wandle book matched **exactly** to their secure phonic knowledge (95% fluency).

Year 2 to Year 6: Fluency and Catch-up

- **Rapid Catch-up:** Any child in Y2–Y6 who has not passed the Phonics Screening Check or is reading below age-related expectations receives **Little Wandle Rapid Catch-up** interventions three times weekly.
- **The 7+ Bridge:** For older pupils, we use the Little Wandle 7+ resources to transition from phonics to broader comprehension.
- **Fluency Development:** We develop automaticity through repeated reading, choral reading, and deep engagement with complex whole-class texts and whole class reading.

Leadership & Staffing

- **Reading Leader:** A dedicated lead monitors data, conducts learning walks, and provides live coaching to ensure absolute fidelity to the Little Wandle scheme.
- **Training:** All staff at Luttons Primary Academy, from EYFS practitioners to KS2 teachers, undergo Little Wandle training to ensure consistent terminology and methods across the academy.

3. Impact

Assessment & Tracking

- **Formative:** Daily assessment for learning identifies children for immediate 'Keep-up' support delivered the same afternoon.
- **Summative:** Every 6 weeks, children are assessed using Little Wandle trackers to monitor progress and adjust groupings.
- **Statutory:** Success is measured through the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check, PiXL tests and KS2 SATs.

Luttons Primary Academy evaluates impact through:

- **The First 20%:** We aim for accelerated progress for our most vulnerable readers through intensive tracking.
- **Phonics to Fluency:** We ensure a clear correlation between phonics success and reading stamina in upper Key Stage 2.
- **Pupil Voice:** Luttons Primary Academy pupils can confidently explain their phonics learning and demonstrate a genuine enthusiasm for their chosen "reading for pleasure" books.

Home-School Partnership

- **Sharing Books:** In addition to decodable readers, children take home a "sharing book" to enjoy with parents, fostering a love for stories.

- **Parental Engagement:** Luttons Primary Academy hosts regular Little Wandle workshops and provides resources to empower parents as co-educators in the reading journey.