

Dear parents,

As you know there is a phonics meeting this week on **Thursday at 2.30pm** (in the hall) with Mrs Upjohn our English subject leader and on **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November** you are welcome to come and join us for a phonics lesson in Wren class at 9am.

At both sessions you will hopefully come away with a 'big picture' of how we teach reading here at Lavant.

### **Key steps for Wrens**

- 1) Learn **initial letter** sounds(phonemes) and digraphs (when 2 letters join together to make one new sound)
- 2) Learn how to use a **Jolly Phonics sound card** to spell simple, phonetic words (words that can be sounded out).
- 3) While learning to read these letter sounds the children are also learning to **write** them in a **multisensory way** (in sand, paint, gloop, on the tickly carpet, on each other's backs, using felt-tips) etc
- 4) **Tricky words** – words that can't be sounded - out are also introduced generally, after the first half term. The children have been introduced to a variety of fun games where they match the individual words to corresponding ones (often by becoming a word detective searching for the word outside and pegging the corresponding one to it). These words need to be recognised on sight – not sounded out as it is not possible. 😊
- 5) These words are grouped in phases from the **Letters and Sounds** document. The children will be bringing them home soon with some suggestions and ideas for how to learn them. We have a tree behind the classroom door with them displayed.

Some children are **ready** to learn these words and progress rapidly through the phases. Others are developmentally at a different stage, are interested in different things at the moment and it may take them a little longer to be able to read them by sight. Don't despair – play the suggested game we send home a few times a week – and most importantly, **keep it fun!**

The most important thing is that learning to read is an enjoyable experience. First and foremost **read to** your child so that s/he ; gains a rich vocabulary and use of language, develops a love of rhyme and alliteration, enjoys stories, rhymes and poetry. 😊

Many thanks for all your support. Do come and speak to me if you have any queries.

J. Yelland