

## Lympstone C of E Primary School Newsletter

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026



**'Let all that you do be done in love'**

**Welcome Back to the second half of the Spring Term!  
I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half-term break.**

### **Wow week**

**We begin this half-term with a WOW Week exploring the question:  
"How do our differences make us stronger?"**

**Across the school, children will be learning about the protected characteristics in our country—what they are, why they exist, and why they matter. Using a variety of media and activities, pupils will be developing their understanding and celebrating individuality and diversity. We look forward to sharing some of this wonderful learning with you at the end of the week.**

### **Nature School – A Huge Thank You!**

**A huge thank you to the parents who volunteered their time to help us tidy our Nature School area. Nic truly couldn't have done it without you. The space looks refreshed and inviting once again.**

**We are especially excited that the pond has now been successfully relined—meaning we can welcome new pond life very soon!**

### **Book Sale**

**Thank you to everyone who supported our Uniform and Book Sale on the last day of term.**

**We raised £97 from book sales alone! We hope your children are loving their new reads at home.**

**We still have books available and will be reopening our book stall in the playground soon. All funds raised will help us restock for the new school library. Thank you to our brilliant choir too, your voices and fab singing were just what was needed on the last day of term – Thank you!**

Following the recent parent survey, I'll be sharing information on key areas of learning over the coming weeks.

This week's focus is: **READING**

Did you know...?

Reading is one of our highest priorities in school. Our aim is for every child to leave Lymstone as a confident, fluent reader with a lifelong love of books.

### **Whole-School Reading**

Each class has a dedicated daily session where teachers read aloud a class text—ranging from new releases to much-loved classics. This protected time exposes pupils to rich vocabulary, inspiring stories and diverse genres.

### **Reading at Home**

Each week, children bring home:

A personalised, levelled reading book, and

A 'Book of Interest'—a text chosen with their preferences and curiosity in mind.

### **Early Reading (Reception & KS1)**

We follow the validated Little Wandle systematic synthetic phonics programme (used successfully since 2021).

Children have:

Daily phonics lessons

Three reading-practice sessions each week

Their matched book to read online at home

Regular, repeated practice with these decodable books is key to building fluency and confidence.

### **Reading in KS2**

Reading looks different in KS2 but continues to build fluency and comprehension.

Year 3 uses Little Wandle Fluency texts designed to challenge and engage learners.

After completing the Little Wandle scheme, pupils move onto PM

Benchmarking, which gives them a reading age and level. Children progress through the levels until Year 6.

Instead of reading-practice sessions, KS2 classes use 'Fred's Teaching', a scheme taught at least 3 times per week. It introduces high-quality, modern texts and focuses on vocabulary, inference and comprehension skills.

### **What We Need From You**

To support your child's progress, we ask that you:

Read with your child at least three times a week

Record a brief comment in the reading journal (about both the levelled book and the book of interest)

These comments help teachers know that reading has taken place, how your child found the book and whether a book should be changed.

We will now be tightening expectations:

If no comment is recorded, we won't be able to change the book. This will ensure that we are all on the same page (no pun intended)!

Working together makes a genuine difference to children's reading progress and attitudes and I really want to be united on this matter.

If you have any questions about reading, please get in touch—we're always happy to help.

### **Diary Dates**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February Spring 2 Term begins!

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Parents' Evenings begin (online)

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February - WOW week

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February – PTFA School Disco

**I am so excited for this coming half term, I know that it is going to be so productive and exciting for our children.**

**Have a great week Everyone,  
Mrs Reynolds**

## Protected Characteristics

