



# Upper Beeding Primary School

School Road, Upper Beeding, BN44 3HY

Tel: 01903 812288

Email: [office@upperbeedingprimary.co.uk](mailto:office@upperbeedingprimary.co.uk)

Website: <https://upper-beeding.eschools.co.uk/web>

Head Teacher: Mr M Andrews

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following a Governor meeting held yesterday, one of our Parent Governors kindly shared some parental concerns she had heard about the school's use of e-books for Reception and Key Stage 1 children. These e-books are the digital versions of the physical books that the children read three times a week with their class teacher in the new Little Wandle phonics scheme. They are closely matched to the child's phonic ability to ensure they can read them fluently and confidently. Children then read the e-book version with a parent over the weekend.



It was shared with me that some parents have raised concerns about the use of e-books rather than physical books and I would like to explain why this decision was made. As you are no doubt aware, funding for schools is extremely tight at this time and our new phonics scheme has required significant financial investment that we would not have been able to make out of school funds. We have been fortunate enough to be provided with a £6000 grant from the English Hub and a very generous donation of over £2000 from FUBS.

If we were to send a physical version of the book home with children, we run the risk that we wouldn't have the books we required in school at the time they were needed, or they could even become lost or damaged. To replace these would cost the school £5 per book, funds that we just do not have. Our subscription to the e-book library has cost £250 so as you can see it is a very cost-effective way of providing all the children with a version of the text they have read in class. Should further funding become available in the future we will look at expanding our stock of books so that we can provide a physical copy of the text for children to read at home. However, every child is currently bringing home a high-quality book matched to their ability for you to share with them, and I hope you have enjoyed reading these to, and with, your child.



Some parents have found that the website version of the e-book library is slow and have downloaded the Collins Hub app to their phone or tablet instead. This provides a speedier experience, particularly when turning the pages of the e-book, so I would recommend this approach.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you need support in accessing your child's e-book library. Our mission to ensure that every child can read fluently and confidently relies on your support through hearing your child read, so thank you.

Kind regards,  
Mr Andrews  
Headteacher

