Year 3 and 4 Reading-The Little Wandle Fluency Programme-

Vision

At Overchurch Junior School we aim to make all our children happy, confident and competent readers. Therefore we use the Little Wandle Fluency programme to achieve this vision.
We utilise the Little Wandle Fluency Programme, a meticulously structured pathway using vibrant chapter books specifically designed for children in Year 2, Year 3, and across Key Stage 2. This bridges the critical gap between decoding individual words and fully mastering long-form reading stamina, comprehension, and automaticity.

What is Reading Fluency?

According to current educational research and national frameworks, reading accuracy and speed are twin requirements for text comprehension. Fluency is the essential "bridge" that allows children to free up cognitive working memory from decoding letters so they can focus fully on meaning. Fluency relies on three core pillars:

- **Accuracy:** Reading words correctly without guessing, stumbling, or omitting text.
- **Rate & Automaticity:** Reading at an appropriate, fluid pace without conscious or labored effort.
- **Prosody & Expression:** Using pauses, phrasing, intonation, and emotional emphasis to bring a text to life.

Reading Fluency Programme at OJS

We use the programme three times a week for children who have completed Little Wandle Phonics. The programme is delivered in 30 minute sessions utilising a collaborative repeated reading model. Rather than skimming through multiple texts, children study a single, high-quality chapter book deeply across a multi-week instructional block to solidify confidence.

The 10-Level Progression Pathway

The programme spans 10 carefully graduated levels of chapter books. Progression is determined via regular, ongoing teacher assessments analysing a child's Words Correct Per Minute (WCPM) alongside their dialogic comprehension.

Fluency Level	Target Reading Rate	Text Complexity & Outcomes
Fluency 1 (F1)	60–70 WCPM	Initial transition away from phonics books. Pupils cease finger-pointing and start scanning short phrases visually.
Fluency 2 (F2)	70+ WCPM	Introduction to multi-clause sentences. Voice modulation reacts automatically to basic periods, question marks, and exclamation points.
Fluency 3 (F3)	80+ WCPM	Expanded structural stamina. Pupils master dialogue tracking, commas, and dashes with distinctive character voices.
Fluency 4 (F4)	85+ WCPM	Transitioning into richer descriptive vocabulary and longer narrative paragraphs. Subtle background context shifts.
Fluency 5 (F5)	90+ WCPM	The intermediate standard. High accuracy across complex chapter settings; reading speed smoothly mirrors natural speech.
Fluency 6 (F6)	95+ WCPM	Transition into larger group instruction. Texts feature more intricate sub-plots, idioms, and non-linear timelines.

Fluency Level	Target Reading Rate	Text Complexity & Outcomes
Fluency 7 (F7)	100+ WCPM	Advanced cross-curricular vocabulary introduces subtle inference targets. Text layouts resemble traditional independent novels.
Fluency 8 (F8)	105+ WCPM	Strong independent stamina across multiple chapters. Pupils comfortably juggle complex character motivations and vocabulary.
Fluency 9 (F9)	110+ WCPM	Pre-advanced level. Pupils exhibit sustained, silent text immersion with advanced figurative language and layout dynamics.
Fluency 10 (F10)	120+ WCPM	The final peak level. Sustains a word count of up to 5,760 words. Prepares pupils completely for unassisted access to dense Key Stage 2/3 curriculums.