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The DFE is promoting the teaching of reading using Systematic Synthetic Phonics in every classroom in the UK. While the Labour Government endorsed this method of teaching to read and produced its own phonics programme, 'Letters and Sounds'™, it did not ensure that training teachers in the programmes was rigorous and that schools were using high quality phonics products.

Now the Coalition Government is going a step further. It is selecting products into a match funding catalogue for phonics products and services. These products and services must be proven to adhere to the principles of Systematic Synthetic Phonics (a list of criteria drawn up by the DFE). Once approved and included in the catalogue, the Government has pledged to match the funds a school will use to purchase these products and services up to the sum of £3,000. This means that a state primary school in England will be able to spend £6,000 on training and phonics resources but pay only half the sum. The other half will be paid by the DFE.

To execute and organise this initiative the DFE has appointed the Eastern Hires Purchasing Organisation (ESPO) to create a paper and online catalogue for schools to use. Five procurement organisations around England have been tasked with processing school orders and delivering the products. These are Hampshire County Council, Hertfordshire County Council, Kent County Council, West Mercia Supplies and Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation.

This online and paper catalogue should be published in September 2011 and will continue until 2013. Companies participating will be able to add new products within this time frame. Products included only apply to phonics products and resources for KS1.

Dandelion books, which include Dandelion Launchers and Dandelion Readers, have been selected for the match-funding catalogue. One of the criteria of Systematic Synthetic phonics is the use of decodable texts alongside a phonics programme. Dandelion Books will appear as a supplementary reading resource which teachers can use alongside any phonics reading programme a school is using. It is the most structured of the decodable reading resources on the market.

Dandelion Launchers teach only five phonemes (sounds) in the first level and this enables the teacher to introduce reading as the pupil acquires the alphabet. There are four books at each level, which ensures lots of practice and consolidation before the pupil moves on to the next level. Dandelion Readers can be used as extension reading for Dandelion Launchers or as a reading resource for catch-up pupils. And for older and reluctant readers aged 8-14, we have Totem Series and Talisman Series. Our phonic books are surely going to keep your beginner readers and reluctant readers engaged and will build confidence in them from the very beginning.

Our phonic books have always been interesting for children™s with imaginary stories, appealing characters in stories, colourful and motivating illustrations, high phonic progression, clear explanation of Synthetic Phonics for teachers and parents, Games, vocabulary page, short lesson for reluctant readers, text on cream background making easy to read, syllabus split for readers, reading practice with phonic focus and spelling activities. We provide more information about decodable books, teaching tools for parents and teachers, books for dyslexics, activity books, books for letters and sounds, vowel digraphs, montessori books, etc.

All in all 126 books have been included in the catalogue. Phonic Books has since created 20 more books, which will soon be submitted for approval. Once approved, they will be added to the paper and online catalogue.

Phonic Books Ltd is now in its sixth year of publishing. During this time it has been committed to publishing decodable books for beginner and catch-up readers. The quality of Dandelion Books has been recognised by their inclusion in the match-funding catalogue.

For details visit: <http://www.phonicbooks.co.uk/>

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