



Reading

Teaching children to read is of the utmost importance at our school, as we believe reading is a life enhancing skill that is the entitlement of every child. We not only teach our pupils to read, but we expose them to a literary world, stimulating and encouraging them to read for pleasure, for information and to expand their horizons across all subjects.

Our approach to reading:

On entering our school, our pupils follow the synthetic phonics approach, using the 'Letters and Sounds' programme, which is supplemented with resources from the 'Phonics Bug' programme. This ensures that all children are able to decode and encode sounds. Our phonics teaching is divided into phases, with each phase building on the skills and knowledge of previous learning. Children have time to practice and rapidly expand their ability to read and spell words.

Our Reading Books

We have a wide range of quality and engaging reading schemes, which cater for the differing needs and interests of our children across the school. We believe that using more than one reading scheme '...enables teachers to offer children a rich and varied experience of successful text reading.' (Taken from 'Which Books and Why: Using Book Bands and book levels for Guided Reading in Key Stage 1')

The different reading schemes, which contain a mixture of fiction, non-fiction and poetry books, are book banded into colours to comply with the National Reading Book Band levels. This groups books according to the difficulty of words, the length of sentences, punctuation and story style or non-fiction format used. As the children progress through the coloured book bands, the texts become more challenging, enabling our children to build on their reading experience until they have acquired the essential skills to be a secure and confident reader.

The children's decoding and comprehension skills are routinely assessed to ensure that they are reading at the correct book band level. We have an extended our book banded levels for Key Stage 2, to ensure that they continue to receive a broad reading experience, which includes traditional and modern classics, as they develop their reading preferences.

Our Libraries

All our pupils regularly have the opportunity to visit and borrow from our extensively resourced libraries. Books within each library have been selected for their age appropriateness, to stimulate an enjoyment for reading and also provide challenge. We believe that our challenging texts are particularly important to further extend and stimulate our children that are reading beyond the book band levels.

Reading in Our Classes

Supported and Guided Reading takes place daily, when children are taught reading strategies to enable them to become confident, independent and fluent readers who read for meaning. Regular class story times are also used to develop a love of reading and help children to access books, which they might not yet independently be able to read.

Additional Reading Support

Pupil progress systems are embedded to ensure that children not achieving in phonics/reading are identified early and focused support/interventions are put in place.