

Reading

Nothing contributes more to a child’s early education than listening to stories and sharing books! The extent to which children read and enjoy books has a significant impact on their progress and attainment across the curriculum.

All our pupils have a contact book which is shared between home and school. This book provides an opportunity for reading to be recorded and for parent and teacher to communicate with each other easily.

Children in foundation and year 1 follow the Phonics Bug reading scheme in their daily phonics sessions. Children in year 2 who benefit from additional phonics also follow the Phonics Bug reading scheme. This scheme is based on Letters and Sounds.

The children who are following the scheme will take home a decodable reading books based on the sounds they have learnt from the previous week. This is to help children consolidate their learning.

In addition to the decodable book, your child will also bring home a second colour band reading book. This is a book designed to share with someone at home. There will be words in these books which the children may need help with.

From the start, children are encouraged to blend sounds together to read words - i.e. phonics. The sounds are taught as clipped short sounds. We let parents know the sounds the children have been taught and we hold parent workshops to explain this further. Alongside this, children are encouraged to learn by sight the words which occur most commonly in their reading books – words like ‘the’, ‘go’, and ‘no’ as these are words which cannot be sounded out.

Alongside developing reading fluency, we also develop comprehension skills. This is supported either by daily one to one reading sessions with a teacher, guided reading or whole class reading sessions which take place in all classes right through to Year 6. To assess reading comprehension in upper KS1 and KS2, we use Scholastic Reading Pro which provides the children with a lexile score. This score corresponds to different levelled books within the library which the children can independently choose. After reading each book, there is a short quiz which assesses the child’s understanding of the text.

We continue to foster and support a love of books throughout school. All classrooms have reading corners with a range of books that the children can choose from, and they regularly read independently or with an adult in addition to their daily guided reading lessons.

**What you can do:**

* Read stories to your child regularly whatever stage of reading they have reached. Children want to read, so make sure that they know the pleasure to be had from reading books.
* Switch off the television. Choose a time when you can be cosy together and make it a special time.
* Let your child decide who is going to read. They may want you to read the book or to read the book with you or to read it to you with only a little help.
* Look at the cover. Read the title, point out the author and illustrator.
* Go from left to right with your index finder under the words so that your child learns how a book works.
* Talk about the illustrations as children may need to use them as clues to what is happening on the new page.
* Encourage children to think about what may happen next.
* Make it fun. Remember to praise children for every attempt.

**Try to avoid these situations:**

* Putting your child under pressure to read to you.
* Forcing your child to listen to a story when they are not interested.
* Making learning a race to keep up with other children. You could destroy their confidence and love of books.