

How do we prioritise reading?

Each of our classrooms has a reading area, which is inviting and engaging, in order to promote a love of reading. Teachers are encouraged to develop their own library areas and include items which they feel suit their current cohort of children. This ensures that each year the children have a new and exciting area to engage with. Children can access the book areas freely throughout the day and engage with a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry books. The books in these areas are rotated regularly, to ensure it stays a fun and engaging place to go.

In the classroom, teachers ensure topic linked texts are available to the children each half term, to enable them to broaden their understanding and interest in the key areas being studied.

We endeavour to use books and high-quality texts to enrich learning and provide access to a range of genres. Many literacy units in each year group are focussed around a key text.

Read Write Inc is our chosen synthetic phonics programme in EYFS and KS1. Phonics across the school is taught in five 30-60 minute sessions per week, depending on age and time of year. In KS2, children who did not pass their Phonics Screening Check in KS1, or who have not completed our chosen SSP programme, continue to attend daily phonics sessions and will also receive 1:1 tutoring from an experienced adult, following the Read Write Inc tutoring programme.

Early reading is encouraged by providing pupils with non-worded reading books in the first instance. Once they have developed the initial phoneme awareness and decoding skills, they are then moved on to texts that match their phonic ability and are fully decodable.

Pupils who are learning phonics in EYFS and KS1 take home three books: the phonetically decodable book they have read in school and another book linked to their phonics level and a library book to enjoy as part of their reading for pleasure experience.

Once children have progressed through the phonetically decodable texts and can confidently read 90 words per minute, they move onto further levelled books which continue throughout KS2.

Reading in KS2 is taught daily and is based upon whole-class texts. We have carefully selected a range of texts (including classics, non-fiction texts and poetry anthologies) through which we deliver the KS2 reading curriculum. Our Reading Spine lists the texts that children will encounter as they progress through KS2.

Pupils have access to our library and are encouraged to take library books home, in addition to their regular reading books. All children are encouraged to take a 'Reading for Pleasure' book to share with their families at home.

At the end of each school day, every class engages with story time. This 20 minute slot sees the teacher reading a purposefully selected text to their children.

We use home reading records to monitor pupils reading at home, so that we can provide extra provision in school where it is needed. For targeted children in KS1 and KS2, 1:1 reading takes place with an experienced teacher or TA.