



Reading in Key Stage 2 at Bearwood Primary and Nursery School

Reading is key to a child's learning and we know how important it is to work in partnership with parents and carers to help children to develop their confidence in this area. Reading together at home is one of the easiest but most important ways in which you can help your child. As you share books together, you will help to develop your child's reading skills and also show them how enjoyable and important reading is. Thank you for your support – it really makes a difference.

What reading skills and strategies do we teach at school?

Children begin by learning phonics through the programme Little Wandle for Letters and Sounds Revised in EYFS and KS1, but as fluency develops and the children move into Key Stage 2, we focus increasingly on the children's understanding of what they have read and their responses to the text. We encourage children to:

- Describe or recall from what they have read
- Answer questions about the text
- 'read between the lines' and look for clues to gain a deeper understanding
- Consider how texts are organised and how language is used effectively
- Think about the writer's viewpoint
- Make links between different texts

When do we teach reading in Key Stage 2?

Children are taught reading skills in class through using high quality texts which are often linked to the curriculum topics. These texts are explored as a whole class and specific reading skills from the reading skills progression document are taught.

Children may also read individually with the class teacher, a teaching assistant or a reading volunteer. The frequency will depend on the child's individual need.

Children also have many other opportunities to read and enjoy texts as part of the wider curriculum, for example reading their own or a partner's work in class, carrying out research as part of a project, preparing for and presenting class assemblies or during a visit to the library. Your child's teacher will take advantage of opportunities to make links between reading sessions and other activities so that the children can practise their skills in context.

What do the children read?

In Key Stage 2, children will choose their individual reading book from our reading scheme which is colour banded. Your child's class teacher will ensure that your child knows the colour band that they are reading. This book needs to be taken home each day and should be read more than once to help them to develop fluency. Children will be given the opportunity to change their reading book at least once a week.

As well as stories and information books, children also enjoy many other types of texts such as comics, newspapers, magazines, poems, plays, e-books, internet pages, recipes, instructions.... We have opportunities in school for children to read many of these.

How are the Reading Records used?

All children will start the year with a Reading Record which will need to be in school each day and taken home each evening. An adult may write in the diary when your child has read in school and we would ask you to write in the diary when your child has read at home and to sign/initial it.

How can you help your child?

We would ask that you find time to read with your child every day at home. The session does not need to be too long – 10/15 minutes is fine. The support you can offer in this will be of great benefit to your child. Children also enjoy sharing books with other adults or older siblings....

Top Tips.

- Try to make reading time fun wherever possible. Aim to do little and often, but not when your child is tired.
- Talk about the book as much as possible, ask your child to explain what has happened, ask questions about the story.
- Occasionally read the book or some of the pages aloud before you ask your child to read. This will help with understanding and gives them a chance to hear the sounds first. It will also show them what fluent reading sounds like.
- Draw attention to punctuation marks and help them to read with feeling, eg “HOORAY” they shouted.
- Echo reading – read one section to your child and ask them to reread it. This can start off small with just one sentence at a time read, and then build up to paragraphs and pages.

If your child would like to read something other than their colour banded book from school, that is fine – please write it in their Reading Record too.

As long as they are reading and enjoying it, they are developing skills which they will carry into the future.

If your child is reluctant to read, don't force them or make an issue out of it. Talk to your child's teacher so that you can work together. Read to them as much as possible, try taking turns to read a page each.

If your child reads aloud with confidence and fluency, don't insist on reading aloud all the time but at this stage you can help them to develop their understanding by talking to them about the meaning of any new words and by asking them to tell you about what they have read.