

Reading at Primrose Hill



At Primrose Hill, we are committed to providing an exciting, current and progressive English curriculum for our children. We want our children to become enthusiastic, engaged readers and writers who develop a life-long love of reading and a passion for writing.

Our English Curriculum is planned around high-quality stories and novels, that have links to the wider curriculum and children's interests. We believe that all children are entitled to a broad and balanced English curriculum and deliver it in a way which recognises the varied needs of our children and allows each individual to maximise their learning potential; preparing them for the application of English skills across the whole curriculum and life beyond primary education. Our novel-based English curriculum allows us to ensure that we promote a love of reading, alongside developing subject knowledge, skills and understanding in speaking and in reading and writing, so that children can know more and remember more to help them reach and exceed their potential at Primrose Hill Primary School and beyond.

Oracy is at the heart of our teaching and learning approaches and we strive to teach our children how to communicate effectively and articulately. Our pupils acquire a wide vocabulary, captured through a wide breadth of texts and modelled with high quality talk from adults in school. We encourage our children, of all ages, to become readers and writers, through a wealth of opportunities in a range of contexts with confidence and independence.

Phonics

At Primrose Hill, we teach children to read effectively and quickly using the Read Write Inc. Phonics programme (RWI), which includes teaching synthetic phonics,

sight vocabulary, decoding and encoding words as well as spelling and accurate letter formation.

We believe that teaching children to read and write independently, as soon as possible, is one of the core purposes of a primary school. These fundamental skills not only hold the keys to the rest of the curriculum, but also have a huge impact on children's self-esteem and future life chances.

Using the RWI phonics program we teach children to:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding.
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information.
- write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences.

Children learn the 44 common sounds in the English language and are taught how to blend these sounds to decode (read) words. We start by teaching children to read and blend the first thirty Set 1 sounds. Once they have mastered this, they begin reading stories and texts that have words made up of the sounds they know. This means that they can embed and apply their phonic knowledge and start to build their reading fluency. Once secure, children learn Set 2 and Set 3 sounds and then read texts with increasingly more complex sounds and graphemes. Throughout this process there is a focus on comprehension, reading with expression and reading for enjoyment.

Children are taught in small groups that reflect their phonic knowledge and reading fluency. We make sure that pupils read books that are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and ability to read 'tricky words' so they experience early reading success and gain confidence as readers.

Regular and rigorous assessment, tracking and one-to-one tutoring ensure that we aim to guarantee progress for every child.

How you can help at home

There are many ways in which you can help to develop your child's reading. These include:

- Reading to your child and always discussing the story you are reading to try to build your child's comprehension skills, inference and understanding.
- Practice the sounds. These are the sounds in the Speed Sound Chart at the start of the RWI storybooks.
- Listen to your child read, both their RWI storybook and other storybooks, every day. Make sure that your child brings their RWI Storybook into school every day!
- Talk to them! The most important thing you can do is to talk to your child and listen to them when they are talking to you. Try to extend their vocabulary range and their skill at talking in increasingly more complex sentences. For

example, try to teach them alternative words for ideas, or nouns they already know.

- Look out for our RWI Workshop, where you can find out about how we teach phonics at Primrose Hill so that you are best placed to support your child's reading journey.
- Visit the Parents section of the RWI website: [RWI – Parents' Portal](#) for more information and helpful guidance.
- Visit the Oxford Owl Reading at home pages: [Oxford Owl Reading at home](#) for additional information and reading books matched to your child's phonics ability.

If you need further advice, please contact your child's class teacher or our Assistant Headteacher and RWI Lead Teacher (Mrs Parkington), who will be happy to help.

Home Reading

In Early Years and Key Stage 1, our school uses the 'Read Write Inc' Reading Scheme. Within this scheme, there are fiction and non-fiction books that the children will regularly bring home to read.

When children have completed the RWI programme they will choose from a vast selection of high-quality home reading books (from a range of reading schemes), which are carefully graded by reading levels known as book bands.

The progression between each colour band is very gradual, so that children do not experience great difficulty moving up through the scheme and maintaining their reading confidence.

It is really important that children develop their comprehension skills alongside their ability to read the words on the page so you may find that your child is able to read the words fluently but continues on the same Book Band colour to enable them to focus on developing their understanding, before moving on to texts with more challenging content. Teachers assess the children's reading on a regular basis and will change their Book Band colour when they are confident that both the comprehension and word reading standards have been achieved.

Our most competent readers have access to carefully selected 'Free Reader' books to ensure interest and enthusiasm is maintained whilst extending through more challenging texts.

All pupils are encouraged to read as widely and frequently as possible. We set challenging reading targets every term and pupils are rewarded for reaching these by achieving bronze, silver and gold (Pupils who achieve their gold award have an extra special treat at the end of the year).

We also engage in and actively promote local community reading projects such as the Euxton Library Reading Challenge and we enjoy celebrating World Book Day as a whole school each year.