

“Think before you speak. Read before you think”.

Fran Lebowitz.



As we come to the end of our summer term, we reflect on all the fantastic practice that has taken place in school this academic year, not to mention the progress children have made and the enjoyment the children continue to have for reading. What a year it has been and how time flies when you're having fun!

We are now two years into our Little Wandle Letters and Sounds revised Phonic programme, not to mention a whole year delivering Pathways to Read in KS2.

The staff have been incredibly busy again this year attending training to ensure they are always up to date with statutory changes and for new areas implemented to Little Wandle, including, the Year 2 Spelling and Fluency programme. This has been a great addition to the curriculum and one that we will continue to develop to enhance and secure children's enjoyment, fluency and understanding.

In September, we plan to continue the Fluency and Spelling programme building it into the KS2 curriculum to support children's fluency, spelling pattern knowledge and understanding.

This year we have continued to deliver Rapid Catch-Up sessions for many pupils in KS2 and we are delighted and very proud of their progress and understanding. Many have graduated from the scheme which has been down to their sheer hard work and determination.

We are also very pleased with the progress the pupils have made and in F2 and KS1, we have continued to see a real improvement in pupils' decoding and comprehension skills. All pupils continue to gain confidence which has resulted in children developing a love of reading, and this has always been our goal.

We have been immensely proud of the children in Y1, who have worked hard to pass the phonics screening check and our results are in line with our last year's results which was a 13% increase from the previous year and above national results.

This is down to the hard work and dedication from all our staff, pupils, volunteers and parents.

Read & Share



As part of our mission to continue to develop a culture of reading across school and build our partnership with parents and families, we continued with our 'Read & Share' event for our foundation stage parents during the summer term. In our foundation stage, the children follow the Little Wandle Early Reading & Phonics Scheme. Monday's session focuses on decoding as the children are given a new book. Tuesday's focus is prosody, which is all about reading with expression and finally, Wednesday's focus is comprehension, seeing how much the children have understood and remembered about the book.

The event was, once again, a great success. Thank you to the parents who completed the 'Read & Share' survey. We value the responses and take on board suggestions made. The survey results showed;

Many parents feel they have a better understanding of how reading is taught in school and really enjoyed being part of the experience. It gave them ideas of how to help their children when reading at home and now have a better understanding of what types of questions to ask.

We were really pleased with the positive feedback for our Reading Miles Challenge, which we launched in January. Parents feel it is motivational and a great idea. It encourages their children to read for longer lengths of time, independently and gives them something to work towards with raffle tickets and possible book prizes at the end.

When asked how further we can promote reading for pleasure at home, most parents felt we address this by giving out reading trophies, library visits in F2, sending home reading for pleasure books and reading miles raffle tickets and book vending machine prizes. Some parents suggested a 'Parent Book Swap'. This is something we have considered as the 'Free Books for Children' situated in the reception area is working very well and books are replenished weekly. This will be implemented in the Autumn term and will be situated in the same place. Please feel free to donate any appropriate adult books.

Parents feel they are well informed about the progress their child makes through parents evening, open door policy, home reading book levels and SEND reviews. When asked how we can further improve this a few parents suggested certificates when children move onto a new book level. This is a good suggestion and one we plan to implement in the Autumn term. Thank you for your suggestions.

Here are a few other comments we received and are very proud of...

"Keep on promoting a love of reading, its great!"

"Thank you for reaching out to parents on how this event was received. It's nice to know our opinions are valued".

"Its amazing what you do! My child could not read or write and now they are reading and writing with so much more confidence. Thank you!"

As all parents said they would like this event to continue, we will be holding our event during the Autumn term. We look forward to welcoming you back into school.

Reading Champions



As always children became Reading Champions and promoted a love of reading in their classrooms and around school. They have continued to do a fabulous job, keeping book areas tidy, ensuring our class books link to current topics, encouraging other children to read, recommending books and some have even spent time reading to our F2 and Y1 pupils. Thank you to all the children who have been a Reading Champion this year. We will continue this in the Autumn term. Please return badges if you haven't done so already.

F2 Library Visit



The children in F2 have enjoyed visiting the library in Chapeltown. They travelled by bus which they loved and felt very grown up about. Whilst there they found out; what a library is, had a tour of the library, found out how many books they can borrow from the library, the different activities they can do when we visit the library and they listened to a story read by the librarian. They all really enjoyed it and were so excited to go home with an application form for their very own library card!

Reading Miles Challenge Prizes



Well done to all the children, this year, who have had their raffle tickets drawn during our Celebration Reading Assemblies and were able to choose a book from our Vending machine. Keep up the Reading Miles!

Our intent for your child, whilst at High Green Primary School, is to nurture a love of reading and become enthusiastic, confident and motivated lifelong readers.

We are incredibly excited, from September, to share a new academic year with your all and we are especially looking forward to witnessing the children's achievements.

We hope you all have a wonderful Summer.

The English Team.

“Reading should not be presented to children as a chore, a duty. It should be offered as a gift ”

Kate DiCamillo