



How are Phonics and Reading taught at Meadowbank Primary School?

At Meadowbank Primary School we believe that teaching children to read is one of the most important aspects of every child's learning. Children need to be taught the knowledge and skills to become confident and able readers, so that they can read for both pleasure and purpose.

We use a number of different strategies to promote a child's love of books and encourage them to become confident, independent readers. The children are provided with many opportunities to read, enjoy and share books as well as being exposed to a language rich environment, which provides access to many different types of print. We have an inviting library that contains a wide range of reading materials to support children of all abilities. Throughout the school day children are provided with many opportunities to engage in various activities to develop their reading skills across the whole curriculum.

Meadowbank Primary School has a variety of reading books including fiction, non-fiction and poetry for children to borrow and take home. These are organised so that they are aligned to a progressive national, colour banded levelling system. The teaching team regularly observe and assess children's reading skills to ensure the children take home books that are carefully pitched to their reading ability.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, phonic skills are taught through high quality, short discrete daily sessions using the recommended synesthetic phonics programme 'Letters and Sounds.' This provides us with a multi-sensory approach that accommodates all learning styles.

Children learn a range of strategies to decode words, with an emphasis on phonological knowledge and word building skills. The children are taught within the appropriate phonic phase with 'Letters and Sounds' continuing in Key Stage 2 to support the needs and ability of individual children if necessary.

Throughout Key Stage 2, a structured guided reading procedure is followed, supporting children in the development of their understanding of a whole text. They explore a range of questioning techniques; make predictions from what they have read; inference characters thoughts, feelings and behaviours using evidence from the text and practise skills of skimming and scanning for finding specific information quickly. They are also exposed to unfamiliar texts in addition to their independent and group reading books, allowing them opportunities to apply themselves. Children are always encouraged to develop their answers in detail, making references to the text they are reading - this is reinforced through teacher discussion groups. It is also really important that children develop an enjoyment of reading as they move through the school, which is also promoted in and around school through regular competitions and parent events.

The teaching team receive regular training in the teaching of reading and phonics which enables them to deliver quality first teaching with interactive sessions that engage and motivate the children. Parents are also invited into school during the year to engage in reading and phonic workshops in order for them to understand the strategies we use. We also recognise and value the significant role that parents play in further developing children's reading skills and fostering a love of books.