



Within our school, reading is a pivotal gateway to learning. Reading allows children to gain insight to the world around them and appreciate the diverse, inclusive society we all thrive in. It provides them with an unlimited amount of knowledge that they can utilise to develop understanding in all areas of the curriculum. We give them the space to explore their voice, develop their confidence and formulate opinions influenced by our wide-variety literature. We encourage them to make connections between texts, characters and their own experiences and have the rich vocabulary to express themselves. Throughout our school reading is a purposeful and immersive experience with authentic learning opportunities. We recognise reading is fundamental to every child's life-long development. We are committed to ensure every child is engaging with a range of challenge books and reading without delay. As a result, our pupils are confident and fluent readers with outstanding comprehension skills and a life-long love of reading.

Phonics

Phonics is the teaching of early reading through a process of recognising that letters and groups of letters make certain sounds, that can be put together to build words. Children start building their phonics knowledge from their very first days in school. They have daily whole class phonics sessions where they develop their knowledge of different sounds and the graphemes linked to those sounds. We follow the phonics programme Read Write Inc. a systematic and synthetic scheme providing detailed plans and resources that aim for all children to be fluent readers by the age of 7.

Each week children will focus on two new sounds and one new tricky word for 20 minutes a day, whilst constantly recapping their previous learning. This approach ensures that all children have a deepened understanding of each sound. This is done through memorable and enjoyable rhymes, a focus on partner work and repetition to ensure automaticity. Across Reception and Year 1 children will learn all the set 1, 2 and 3 sounds and develop their segmenting and blending skills allowing them to decode words independently. Children will have the opportunity throughout phonics sessions to apply their skills in a range of mediums including reading using the matched sounds RWI storybooks.

At the end of Year 1 children are asked to demonstrate their segmenting and blending skills in the Phonics Screening Check. Within this assessment children are asked to read a combination of real and alien (made up) words. The Read Write Inc. scheme is a highly effective and reputable programme that ensures successful progress for all children.

Word Reading

Children are given opportunities to apply and refine their phonetical understanding throughout school through a range of teaching and learning opportunities.

A fluent reader is able to read a text independently at an appropriate speed with expression and clarity for the reader without an overt need to sound and blend words. We encourage children to read with their **'EARS'** promoting **E**xpression, **A**ccuracy, **R**ate and **S**moothness.

Children are given the opportunity to read aloud each day either as a group, whole class or individual. Teachers model fluent, expressive reading, correct and guide children and then allow an opportunity for children to re-read more fluently.

As children progress through school, they will grow their knowledge of etymology and morphology (study of word origins and structures) to improve word reading and develop understanding of vocabulary.

TAKING BOOKS HOME AND ELIBRARY

Supportive interventions should be in place for those requiring extra support. Children may be asked to re-read texts or parts of a text to develop fluency reading. Reading for meaning is developed with vocabulary tasks, using clues in the text and understanding of spellings.

Comprehension

Children's comprehension skills are equally as important as their ability to read fluently and confidently. Children are encouraged to answer and ask questions about texts they read and are expected to demonstrate sound understanding of the content including vocabulary and hidden messages (inference).

We teach children reading skills in explicitly in our whole class guided reading at least once per week where teachers will model active thinking while reading to develop reading skills.

Other areas of the curriculum should allow other skills to be developed in a meaningful way e.g. skimming and scanning for meaning, retrieval of facts, using a glossary and contents page effectively. These skills will still need to be taught, but this can be done with a curriculum purpose in mind. They should be a focus on the following: **Retrieval** of information; **Interpreting** (including making predictions); **Choice** (language, structure and presentation); **Viewpoint** (including history and culture if appropriate); **Performance** of poetry and scripts.

In KS2, children will also be selected to participate in a small group booster session where they will apply these skills further.

Enhancing the Reading Experience

Within the Federation we are proactive in ensuring children's reading experiences are enhanced across the entire school and curriculum.

Class Story: Each child is given the opportunity to access a high-quality, challenging book which is read to them each day. Teachers model fluency when reading to the class and this reading time allows pupils to enjoy listening to a story without any expectations.

Cross-Curricular Opportunities: Reading is interwoven within our entire curriculum. Children will read rich, diverse and vocabulary rich texts in all subjects from art to PE. Our cross-curricular reading gives pupils the opportunity to expand their world view, their understanding of others and make connections between texts and characters and their own experiences.

Immersive Experiences: Within the federation we do not just read children a variety of texts we also give them the opportunity to live them. Whether that is with a magical beanstalk that grows in the classroom, a group of chairs and pencils that cannot take it anymore and decide to quit or the chance to fully understand a character through role-play.

Continuous Provision: In EYFS and KS1 children explore a range of texts through rich and purposeful child-led activities. All areas provide opportunities for text exploration from small world trays and role-play areas to art and technology stations.

Reading Corners: Every class within the Federation has a unique reading corner adapted to the children's interests. From Harry Potter themed libraries to Under the Sea havens, all our reading corners provide children with a space that they can independently access a range of texts. Our pupils enjoy the experience of using these areas and getting lost in a book, either by themselves or with others.

Enrichment: Throughout the year we invite external companies to visit to share high quality performances of beloved books, such as The Railway Children, Midsummer Night's Dream and Macbeth. Children get to experience live theatre without even leaving the school!