



Reading



What are we learning to do? In the Early Years your child is taught to enjoy books. The teachers dress reading areas and reading activities up in various guises to encourage your child to be interested in books and reading. Imagine being 4 years old and seeing a Frozen themed reading area! We teach your child to hold a book the right way up, turn the pages carefully and to treat books with respect.

In the Early Years and up to Year 2 the children have Phonics lessons. Phonics lessons teach children to recognise letters and sounds and to blend and segment. We use Cued Articulation actions alongside the Letters and Sounds plans, to give you child the best chances of learning to read.

If you would like to know more Phonics, check out our Phonics workshops.

As your child moves up through the school he/she learns to enjoy a variety of books. They learn to read words that are longer, more complicated and deeper in meaning. They practise reading until they can read fluently and can enjoy longer texts. As important as the skill of decoding is, your child also has to learn how to use reading to learn about everything else! We learn to use dictionaries, thesauruses, information books, websites and documentaries to absorb new information. We learn to develop our own opinions on events in stories, on character personalities or on events and perspectives from history.

What skills are we learning to use?

Your child is taught;

- To make reading choices.
- To de-code.
- To explore context.
- To interpret.
- To re-tell and perform.
- To explore text organisation.
- To explore viewpoint.
- To retrieve information quickly and effectively.

When do we learn? Reading skills are taught during Guided Reading lessons. These take place 5 times per week for 20 minutes.

What is there in class to help me? Guided Reading skills are often modelled through the visualizer. The interactive whiteboard works to show texts in various forms and structures. Our school library is full of high quality, modern and classic texts which our embedded in our Cornerstones curriculum and school Reading culture. The children are encouraged to borrow one text per week from our library to take home and explore. Our iPads allow children to listen to audio texts, music and read websites.

How do we learn? Practise, practise and practise. So the more practise you can get in at home, the better.

In guided reading we teach one skill per week. We work from a new Mastery document to ensure that you child is gaining all of the skills they might need to apply to all reading scenarios. From running you finger under a word and sounding out, to scanning for key information.

What if I need extra support?

If you child needs extra support, this need is identified quickly and your child will be put on the Accelerated Learning programme. This means that the teacher or teaching assistant will spend extra time with your child, focusing on a specific gap each week.

Communicate in Print

Internalising new stories and getting to grips with characters can be much easier with images representing key words. Communicate in Print is a programme that the school uses to make texts accessible for all children. Every word has a symbol pasted above it. This releases the skill of reading letters and allows children to properly focus on the reading learning objective at hand.

What can we do at home to help? Enjoy books and read as much as possible. Don't forget you can read anything! Sign posts, comics... You can even read on a mobile phone! (Please remember internet safety.) What is most important is modelling a love of books. Show your child that books are to be enjoyed, to be fun and to be a useful tool. If your child learns to love the act of reading, then they can teach themselves to read. They can teach themselves anything! Always be 99% positive and 1% constructive. Learning to read is tough.

How does my teacher check my progress? During guided reading lesson the teacher sits and observes one group per day. We take assessment notes and check your child's progress against that week's learning objective. This lets us know how you child is doing and gives us an idea of where they need to go next.