

Teaching Reading in EYFS and Key Stage one

The primary approach for teaching reading in EYFS and KS1 is through **systematic synthetic phonics**, **guided reading** and **whole class shared reading**.

In EYFS and KS1 the children learn to read using their different sounds. A single letter is called a grapheme and a group of letters which make a sound, like 'sh' for example, we call phonemes. The children learn these sounds and then blend them together- this is how they learn to read. When the children have then learnt the sounds, they learn the meanings of the words! The children have phonics lessons daily to try and lead them to success with their reading. In school, we follow the LCP scheme of work for phonics.



Reading is highly encouraged at home for EYFS and KS1 children and we encourage the children to borrow books and story sacks from the school library. All children will have the opportunity to earn racing to read stickers when they read at home 5 times a week. They will then earn a raffle ticket to be entered into the half termly prize draw and then the amount of children who have read in a class will be turned into a percentage. The class with the highest percentage will move the most spaces in the school competition and then the second and third will move reflectively.

We also encourage children to bring their parents to our wonderful Reading Cafés which are now being run once a term. This is a fabulous opportunity to see the fun activities that the children can do with various different books and to interact with other parents and the class teachers. Story sacks and reading can be super fun if done in the right way!



Children have discrete reading lessons in school, which are called guided reading and they also participate in whole class shared reading. In guided reading, the children have the opportunity to read books with their class teacher, which are appropriate for the level that they are working at. They also do some independent reading activities such as: reading comprehension, which is where they read a short

text and are then asked some questions based on these texts; book activities, such as designing their own front cover or blurb; looking at and reading story sacks and even the program Lexia, which the children can access on the IPADS and laptops. In whole class reading, the children will look at a book all together and this may be their Literacy focus for the week.

The children have individual targets, which they are working on and the teacher will make sure that their questioning focusses on these targets to enable the children to progress.



Teaching Reading in Key Stage Two

In Key Stage Two we teach reading through various different approaches: **shared whole class reading**, **guided reading** and **Lexia**.



In Key Stage Two we believe that reading needs to be taught through these different approaches. As with Key Stage One and EYFS, it is still vitally important that children make sure they read at home and do this at least 5 times a week. It is expected that children should be reading for around 3 hours each week if they wish to progress well with their reading. Children also participate in the Racing to Read competition aforementioned and this has developed a competitive attitude between the different classes to win the end of half term prize! In addition, the children's raffle tickets get put into a draw which means they can win some fabulous books each half term. It is important that children read a wide range of text types and these can be found in our school library and also in your local library if you wish to join it.

The children also have access to and are expected to do at least 20 minutes a week of Lexia. Lexia is a reading program that focuses on the different aspects of reading such as: spelling, reading comprehension, phonics, word meanings and passage fluency. The children are initially assessed and then set at a level that is appropriate to them. They then work through the different sections and levels of the program getting certificates and skill builders after they complete each level. The skill builders focus on consolidating what has been learnt in each level. If a child gets stuck, the program alerts the teacher and gives them a lesson to do with the child to try and rectify the misconception.



In addition, as with Key Stage One and EYFS, the children participate in whole class shared reading and guided reading. Whole class shared reading will usually be through a specific text that has been



chosen as a Literacy focus for that half term. Through this text, the children will focus their writing and even some of their topic work. This means chapters of the books will be read together and analysed as a class with the teacher planning targeted questions to try and hit the children's targets and to get them to think more deeply about the text.

In guided reading, the children are split into different groups where they look at texts that are specifically at their level. The teacher will have planned questions to enable the children to hit their targets. Whilst the teacher and the teaching assistant read with two groups, the other groups will be doing activities based on their book or activities helping them to learn and consolidate different skills. For

example, the children may be doing reading comprehension, reading for stamina or doing an independent activity focussing on their reading skills. In addition, the children have opportunities to use Lexia in school during these guided reading lessons.

We also try to make reading a real focus at our school by inviting authors in on a regular basis and by running various reading competitions. We understand that to encourage the children to read- we have to make it real to them!