

“Every child is a unique child of God.”

WHINMOOR



ST. PAUL'S
C of E Primary School

Reading

at

Whinmoor St Paul's C of E Primary School

Information for Parents and Carers

'Year of Reading'

2019-20



The **MORE** that you **READ**,
the more **THINGS** you will **KNOW**.
The **MORE** you **LEARN**,
the more **PLACES** you'll **GO!**

~Dr. Seuss

Reading is probably the most important skill a child will learn. It opens up a whole new world of learning and imagination.

Why is reading so important?

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

In fact, there's evidence to suggest that reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.

Building vocabulary and understanding



Learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out print. Through hearing and reading stories, children are exposed to a rich and wide vocabulary. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding, which is vital as they are reading. It's important for them to understand how stories work as well. Even if a child doesn't understand every word, they'll hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard.

Reading in the National Curriculum

The programmes of study for reading at key stages 1 and 2 consist of two dimensions:

- word reading
- comprehension (both listening and reading).

Teaching focuses on developing pupils' competence in both dimensions; different kinds of teaching are used for each. Skilled word reading involves both the speedy working out of the pronunciation of unfamiliar printed words (decoding) and the speedy recognition of familiar printed words.

Underpinning both is the understanding that the letters on the page represent the sounds in spoken words. This is why phonics is emphasised in the early teaching of reading to beginners (i.e. unskilled readers) when they start school.

Good comprehension draws from linguistic knowledge (in particular of vocabulary and grammar) and on knowledge of the world. Comprehension skills develop through pupils' experience of high-quality discussion with the teacher, as well as from reading and discussing a range of stories, poems and non-fiction.

All pupils are encouraged to read widely across both fiction and non-fiction to develop their knowledge of themselves and the world in which they live, to establish an appreciation and love of reading, and to gain knowledge across the curriculum. Reading widely, and often, increases pupils' vocabulary because they encounter words they would rarely hear or use in everyday speech. Reading also feeds pupils' imagination and opens up a treasure-house of wonder and joy for curious young minds.



Phonics

Good phonics skills are essential to being a good reader. Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1 classes have daily phonics teaching to develop these skills. The phonics scheme used by school is based on the Letters and Sounds scheme which is supported with resources from The Oxford University Press Floppy's Phonics scheme. Other resources used by staff include a range of interactive websites to bring the learning to life in a visual and stimulating way.

Our Reading Schemes

The core of our reading scheme is based around the Oxford University Press Oxford Reading Tree books. This starts in Foundation Stage with a range of textless books and continues throughout school to Year 6.

The books we use include phonetically decodable books as well as those which develop sight vocabulary. There are also books to support reluctant readers and those who need a lower level of challenge but have more mature content. The scheme includes traditional tales from around the world, a range of classic novels and non-fiction books.

The reading diet of our children is not limited to the reading scheme. It is also supported by a range of non-fiction materials from the Leeds Schools Library service and regular visits to borrow books from

Whinmoor Public Library.



Class Novels

All our classes have access to class novels. These texts are read, enjoyed, studied and used as a stimuli for writing by our classes. These novels include modern picture books such as 'The Gruffalo', classics like 'Stig of the Dump', challenging texts including 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' but also nonfiction texts linked to the History curriculum. These texts are read in a range of ways including whole class small group sessions. Sometimes they are read by the class teacher, the children or listened to via audio recordings.

As well as developing reading skills and exposing the children to a varied range of quality books they are used as a stimuli for writing, discussion, vocabulary development and topic work.

Assessment of Reading

Assessment is not just used to track children's learning but also provides teachers with up-to-date and accurate information about the specifics of what children do and do not know. This information allows teachers to adapt their teaching so it builds on children's existing knowledge, addresses their weaknesses, and focuses on the next steps that they need in order to make progress.

At Whinmoor St Paul's assessment in Reading is continuous and takes place whenever reading is taking place in a lesson. From the beginning of each lesson, teachers and teaching assistants will be assessing what their children are, or are not understanding and use this to scaffold each segment of the lesson.

Formal assessment takes place at the end of each half term which adds evidence to the ongoing assessment judgements made during a half term. Formal testing includes the completion of

comprehension assessment materials which enable standardized scores to be calculated to track a child's progress throughout their school journey. These formal assessments also prepare the children for formal assessments at the end of the Key Stages.

Inspiring Reading



Throughout the year at Whinmoor St Paul's we aim to inspire our children to pick up and try new books and become engaged in the imaginary worlds the texts create. During the school year all our classes visit Whinmoor Public library and take part in reading/library related fun tasks and exchange and borrow books. Book fairs and book swaps during the year also give our children access to a wider range of reading materials along with daily access to our class reading corners.

Children in Key Stage 2 take part in the Leeds Book Awards. The children read a range of shortlisted new

books and publish their reviews online for the community to read. They are then able to vote for their favourite books and contribute to choosing a winner. A group of children are invited to the awards ceremony and get to meet the authors in person.

Our children get the chance to meet inspirational authors and find out about their passion for reading. Last year Maria Farrar, author of 'Me and Mister P' visited the school in person but we also take part in webinars with authors.



World book day is always good fun. Children and staff dress up as book characters from their favourite books. We are always very impressed by the costumes but also the range of characters that inspire or children. Fashion shows, paired reading and book related activities during the day really inspire our children and develop their love of reading.

