

Reading Newsletter

January 2018

Priorities: Continue to raise standards in reading across the school and increase children's enthusiasm for reading.

What are we doing?

Novel Study

Our Key Stage 2 classes all enjoy Novel Study sessions where they read, discuss and answer questions about a book together. This has also been fantastic for building children's confidence in reading aloud.

I have read other books in the Percy Jackson series because I liked our Novel Study book so much!
Year 6 pupil

Our Library

Everyone loves going to the library! We have a huge range of fiction and non-fiction books, including lots of recently-released titles to tempt the children. Mrs Petty, our Librarian, is enthusiastically supported by our Library Ministers and our Year 6 Librarians.



Reading Across the Curriculum

All of our REAL Projects are planned in an entirely cross-curricular way, meaning that the children are exposed to a wide range of reading genres and texts.

The Alverton Book Oscars

This event is held every World Book Day and is the highlight of the reading year! All children in the school nominate a book for the Book Oscars and the winners are presented with their awards in the Oscars ceremony complete with red carpet and Oscar statues!



Whole Class Reading

Across Key Stage 2, we have moved away from small, "guided" reading groups and now read texts as whole classes, meaning that everyone can learn key reading skills together.

Independent Reading

We place huge emphasis on reading for pleasure. Children across the school are given many opportunities to read independently and to read texts of their own choosing. Staff work hard to promote reading in a variety of different ways.

Any children who need additional support read 1:1 with an adult as often as possible.

Reading Café and Story Club

Our youngest pupils (and their parents) are welcomed to our Reading Café and Story Club which are extremely popular!

Key Stage 2 Results

We decided to focus on reading across the school because our Key Stage 2 Reading results weren't as high as our other results.

We are still 8% above national % though and our results were 12% higher than last year!

We are particularly thinking about the progress made by those children who have always been very confident readers.

Developing Vocabulary

Vocabulary plays a really important part in learning to read and in reading comprehension.

All classes have ensured that they focus on enhancing the children's vocabulary in both their reading and writing.

Reading Pictures

Younger children develop their more complex reading skills by looking at, and answering questions about, some amazing pictures.



REAL Projects

Some of our REAL Projects have been based around different authors and books, such as Harry Potter and Roald Dahl, making for some very exciting learning. The children's enthusiasm for these books grew to such an extent that a teacher reports previously reluctant readers "practically sitting on my feet to listen to the story".

Parent Helpers

We truly appreciate the help of those parents and grandparents who come into school regularly to listen to the children read.

Some of our Reception mums have even come in to share stories with their child's class.



DERIC

Decode, Explain, Retrieve, Interpret, Choice
When we teach reading comprehension we think that it is important to understand different types of questions.

Please see the Reading section of our website under the Curriculum heading where you can find details of our reading and phonics schemes, information about our Library and our Reading newsletters.

Reading Passports

Each year group has copies of ten fantastic titles for the children to read which have been recommended by their teachers.

Because of the Reading Passport, I now read different books to the ones I used to like.
Year 4 pupil

Reading Karate

In Years 3 and 4, the children have been developing their stamina for reading and achieving karate bands for the number of books they have read!

Parental Support at Home

We really value the support of our children's parents in helping them to learn to read and in continuing to listen to them and to share stories with them.

We publish a monthly Reading newsletter to give lots of ideas to enable parents to support their children even further with reading at home.

What difference is all this making?

Reading is embedded in our culture. Pupil conferencing evidences that the children are confident that they are now better readers than before and are reading more frequently, and enjoying a wider range of books, because of our promotion of reading.

Teacher assessments show that, across the school, pupils are making great progress with their reading and we expect our reading results this year to be even higher!