

Literacy- Reading

Teachers promote and value reading as an enjoyable activity and a life skill. Teachers plan for a range of comprehension strategies that allow pupils to engage with text in a variety of ways to suit different learning styles. Children are encouraged to read a range of books, genres and texts.

In shared reading the teacher models the reading process to the whole class as an expert reader providing a high level of support. Teaching objectives are pre-planned and sessions are characterised by explicit teaching of specific reading strategies, oral response and collaboration.

Quality texts support the theme or topic and allow the teacher to expose the children to rich language, grammar and to genres to support their writing. Children are encouraged to "magpie" phrases and language.

Longer, quality texts are read to the class which may be above their own reading ability to immerse the children in a rich and varied reading experience.

Guided Reading

Class texts are also used to enable the whole class to access the same texts to support all the literacy work. Children are able to follow the text and magpie new vocabulary, allowing for the GDS readers to explain their understanding and demonstrate inference.

Group texts are chosen to match the ability of the group but still provide an element of challenge. Guided reading provides a forum for pupils to demonstrate what they have learned about reading. Children have half termly reading comprehension tests to assess individual progress, in addition to teacher assessment notes made during Guided Reading.

Independent reading

Some texts are selected so that pupils can access them without support. The focus for the reading is to provide practice and develop personal response to text. Children are encouraged to re-read familiar texts to develop confidence and fluency and read in other subjects including ICT.

Paired Reading provides the opportunity for younger children to read with older children. The older child is supportive and helpful, giving praise and help where needed. The younger child gains experience in reading aloud and an opportunity to talk about what they are reading.

Home Reading

Parents receive guidance and support with hearing their child read at home through The Downview Home Reading Booklet and support from class teachers and Parent Workshops.

In KS1, the core Reading scheme is Oxford Reading Tree, which is supplemented with other schemes such as Rigby Star, Big Cat and supplemented with other "real" books. These books are organised according to a Book Banding system.

Book Boxes

Each class from Yr1 to Yr6 has a set of Book Boxes containing quality texts, levelled according to group ability. Teachers will select books to ensure the children are having access to appropriate authors and a variety of genres including picture books, fiction, non-fiction and poetry. The children are expected to read the books in each box over the period of a half term. All books will be sent home to share as well as reading them daily at school. The importance of re-reading familiar texts is encouraged and a child may return to favourite texts.

School Library

In addition to reading the books selected by their teacher the children can borrow books from the School Library which is supervised on a Monday, Thursday and Friday lunchtime by Year 6 librarians. If your child/children require more guidance, they can attend Library Club on Wednesday lunchtime when it is supervised by a teacher.

Home Reading Diaries

Home Reading Diaries are used in all year groups. Individual Reading Records, for children needing extra support, are maintained in school to monitor individual 1:1 reading with an adult during the school day. This may be with the Teacher, a Teaching Assistant or Adult Helpers.

Reading in the School Environment

Each class also has a set of age appropriate dictionaries, thesaurus and word banks and a rich collection of texts and books in class book corners. There are signs, labels, captions, displays and writing on notice boards around the classrooms, corridors and hall. Children may also read in the school library during lunchtimes.