

Reading & Phonics at Cherry Tree School



How do we teach reading and phonics?

Reading is taught through systematic synthetic phonics addressing the objectives in the *Letters and Sounds* document and the National Curriculum 2014. Children are grouped by ability and taught for 20 minutes daily in early years and Year 1. Where appropriate this continues into Year 2 where over time this develops into a spelling focus. Key Stage 2 classes have a daily focused spelling lesson.

Which reading scheme do we use?

We do not use one reading scheme - we use several and organise the books into levels / book bands of similar difficulty. Our reading resources include books published by *Oxford University Press*, *Collins Big Cat* and *Rigby Star*. Each band is represented by a colour and children are regularly assessed to ensure that they progress to the next band as appropriate.

How do we teach the skills of reading?

Children are taught the skills of reading through guided reading lessons, in small differentiated groups. These sessions are objective led and this information is shared with our parents in the child's reading record book. Each small group of children has a copy of the same book. The teacher leads focused reading activities and discussions based on the book.

How often do children read in school?

Children are encouraged and directed to read throughout all of their lessons on a daily basis. Reading may take place using interactive whiteboards, worksheets, published books, IT equipment and by reading and checking their own and others work. Guided reading lessons take place once a week. In our younger classes, individual children read to a teaching assistant, teacher or volunteer once a week, sometimes more frequently.

How do we promote reading?

We constantly promote reading in all classes and also through specific themed events such as: author visits; annual book fairs; book week; book character day and by inviting parents to come in to school to read to the class. In addition, we have run sponsored reading activities in doing so raising money for charity and have also set home-school reading challenges.

What reading materials are on offer for the children?

Our children have a large choice of fiction and non-fiction books in the school library which are regularly updated through our annual subscription to the Education Library Service. We also subscribe to a children's newspaper- 'First News'. Money raised at the annual book fair is used to replenish stocks for the library annually.

Further sources of information:

A variety of information can be found on our website regarding reading:

- Phonics, Reading & Early Writing Workshop- Autumn Term. Presentation notes can be found on the website under the "[Our School / Curriculum](#)" tabs
- Supporting Children – Booklets from each year group can be found under the "[Our School / Curriculum](#)" tabs
- Reading Prompts for Parents- these are sent home at the beginning of each new term. Copies of these leaflets can be found under the "[Our School / Curriculum](#)" tabs