

Reading at St Keyna



At St Keyna, our resolve is to teach reading effectively and encourage a life-long love of reading. This skill underpins our curriculum and allows children access to learning at all stages of their lives, as well as equipping them with an enjoyable activity that provides relaxation and pleasure. We greatly appreciate your support with homework, in all areas, but it is in reading that you can make an incredible impact. Just a small amount of time on a regular basis (daily if at all possible) will enable your child to make great progress. Even just turning on the subtitles on the TV can double the chances of your child becoming good at reading.

Here is a summary of our reading programme:



Read Write Inc.

When they are ready, in Little Gems, children begin to learn the 'hooks' for the first set of phonemes. These are the single letter sounds of the alphabet. Many children start school unable to recognise and name accurately the objects/characters shown on the cards. They may for example be able to say 'bird' but not recognise the 'v' card as a vulture. This stage also includes many listening games and a rich diet of shared stories to inspire the children to want to read.

When they join Quartz the children begin a more formalised system of learning phonics. Our system is a 'synthetic phonics' scheme. This means that the sounds are learnt sequentially and then 'synthesised' or blended to enable reading of words. This approach is now recognized as the most effective way to teach reading. Many adults were taught by a whole word system, learning what 'and' looked like rather than sounding out a-n-d so you may find it useful to look at some of the Ruth Miskin clips that are on You-tube to hear the correct annunciation of the phonemes.

Once the first set of sounds can be recognized and aural blending is established the children move through Ditties then a series of books until they are confident decoders. The later stages also include grammar and vocabulary teaching. It is hoped that by the end of Term 2 in Year 2 children will have completed all the levels. This of course varies from child to child and some may need this programme into Years 3 and 4. Whilst on this scheme the children will bring home a 'Book Bag Book', which will be changed twice a week. This book should be shared daily, if possible, as the purpose is to practise the phonemes taught at each level. There are also several activities in the book to be completed. Assessments are carried out at the end of each term (6 weeks approximately) to monitor progress and move children into higher groups as needed,

With this book the children bring home a free choice book that they can either have read to them or with your help read themselves. This book is not fully decodable and they will need support. Please just fill in any 'gaps' and do not ask them to sound out as this may cause confusion.



Accelerated Reader

The children move to this scheme when they have completed RWI. Initially they are given a star test which dictates the level at which they start. All of our reading stock has been catalogued and carefully graded for use in this scheme. When your child completes their book they take a quiz which assesses their comprehension of the text. Once two quizzes have been taken with a score of 70% or above they can move up to a higher level. If they score 100% they move straight away. These tests are available for your child to take at home (see the website), but we would ask that as much as possible the tests are taken at school so that we can monitor

progress and ensure a 'good fit' with the reading material. Please encourage your child to read at home as often as possible (at least 4 times a week) and sign their reading diary so that these reads count towards our challenge. We would like children in KS2 to read for 20 minutes a day.

Recommended Reads - These books are titles that the children may not choose without a little guidance, the idea being to broaden their reading diet with a few classics and highly recommended reads. Everyone will be asked to choose at least two of these within each level (2.0-2.9 for example)



Rainbow Reading Challenge

This challenge is in place to encourage the children to share their books at home. One home read a day is counted and for each fifteen reads your child receives a small prize and a certificate, before moving on a colour. When they go 'over the rainbow' they choose a book from our prize chest. Whilst reading RWI books we count reads of the decodable Book Bag Book only.



Reading Aloud to Your Child

This is really important even when your child is a confident decoder. Choose a book that is above the level your child can read independently. In EYFS this may mean sharing a picture book so that your child begins to acquire early reading skills. Later on sharing more challenging books can lead to discussion of new vocabulary and themes.



Whole Class Guided Reading

This takes place twice a week for children in KS2. Through this we aim to extend vocabulary and teach the children how to answer more complex questions on texts. These texts are also chosen at a higher level than the majority of the children read at.



Class Story Time

Another opportunity to extend reading skills and introduce the children to inspiring stories that will make them want to read more themselves!

We value the support that you are able to give and hope that this summary has given you a clear picture of our provision. If at any time you have any concerns about your child's reading progress or are unsure about any aspect of our programme, please contact your child's teacher.