

Reading at Berry Hill Primary School

This is information will firstly explain how we teach reading from when your child/ren first start in Reception through to Year 6 and show some of the ways we encourage an enjoyment of reading too. The partnership with parents/carers is central to children becoming readers and enjoying reading.

How will your child learn to read when they start at Berry Hill?

We use a Synthetic 'Phonics' Approach to start children's reading journey and this teaches them to hear the sounds of letters as they are heard within words. They blend sounds and segment words as part of this approach for example:

cat has the separate sounds c a t that can be blended to make to word *cat*.

As the reading progresses, children hear more than one letter as a single sound. For example:

meat has the sounds m ea t that blend to make the word *meat*

How will phonics be taught in our school?

We follow the guidance set out by the Department of Education's own Letters and Sounds Teaching and Learning Resources. When your child/ren enter Reception there are Phonics workshops offered to take you through how your child will learn and how you can support them with this. Adults will be available to help of give guidance.

Phonics sessions take place four times a week for Reception - Year 2 and the children are grouped to ensure the learning is pitched to their needs. To supplement the Phonics programmes children will start learning 'tricky words': words that cannot be sounded out phonetically. Over time children will stop sounding out words and start to read them instantly from sight memory.

How do I know if a book is too easy or difficult?

- **Accuracy** is important for fluency - that is recognising and reading words on sight without errors;
- **Rate** - the fluency (ability to read without errors, with expressions and using punctuation) should be enjoyable to listen to;
- **Comprehension** - understanding what they read because not understanding means they are decoding letters/words rather than reading with meaning. Children need to enjoy what they read; want to read more because they are interested. Without understanding they cannot engage with a text.
- **Expression and intonation** - further demonstrates enjoyment and understanding of text and engages the listener.

We aim for 90% accuracy, and an ability to answer questions, find the answer within their text and talk about what they have read in suitable detail for their age.

When reading is 'trickier':

- Take turns and read a sentence or paragraph each - it helps the flow of the text and increases enjoyment.
- Praise what they have read well
- Make time together enjoyable - milky drink and snuggle up.

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Developing reading skills and enjoyment through the school:

Fluency is best developed through reading aloud, discussing understanding and building vocabulary. As the words and content gets more challenging we use other strategies too.

Below are a few:

- Look at pictures to see if there are any clues
- Read the whole sentence including the unfamiliar word.
- Look for part of the word you may recognise or understand - then think of the context of the word.
- Discuss words you don't understand - you may be able to read them, but reading is for understanding.

It is important that ALL children read and discuss books at home and within school: the older the child, the more complex the vocabulary and plots, or information. Adults will need to support even the older readers, who are reluctant to read aloud, by making this an enjoyable experience because it is SO important for their future learning and enjoyment.

Different ways we develop reading through the whole school Berry Hill Primary:

We aim to generate a love of reading that will be with pupils from school to life beyond: we place great importance on reading and ask parents to join us in partnership to develop skills and enjoyment through their role with Home reading.

Reading is embedded in all aspects of school life. How we monitor and record reading varies and will not always be written in the Home Reading Record as it is integrated into all learning. At Berry Hill we believe reading gives children experiences, language and vocabulary that they may not get otherwise - How many of us have been to space, or deep under the ocean?

✓ **Whole class reading and comprehension:**

Wordsmith, English Programme, has engaging texts that each child can follow as we read it. So all children are exposed to, read and discuss age appropriate texts irrespective of their personal reading level.

✓ **Guided Reading**

Despite current trends moving away from Guided Reading towards whole class teaching, as we use Wordsmith we are continuing with Guided Reading a weekly 30 minutes session in groups of 'same need' reading. We often use iPads and Bug Club for this.

✓ **ERIC (Everyone reading in class)**

Daily for 15 minutes children read to raise the enjoyment of reading: class book, magazines, newspapers, shared books

Class Reader

Y2 - Y6 have set text that the teacher reads daily for 10 to 15 minutes - there is a copy for at least 1 between 2 for them to follow the text.

For further information about Reading please see:

- ✓ Reading Partnership
- ✓ Reading Progression
- ✓ Bug Club - Home School Link texts