

John Blow Primary School Early Reading, reading overview and guidance

We firmly believe reading is a lifelong skill. This can be nurtured and fostered by the partnership between school and home to support pupils in order to develop a lifelong love and appreciation of reading. As a partnership, school will teach the mechanics of reading; exposing children to a love of a wide range of cultural, contemporary, historical, informative and interesting texts; along with a breadth of general and subject specific vocabulary. As part of our partnership we ask parents to practise/reinforce reading habits by reading at home. We all know that it is these memories that children carry with them of when they snuggled down for a nighttime read (and maybe a sneaky hot chocolate) with mum or dad!

Phonics

In Foundation, Y1 and Y2 phonics is taught daily. Phonics screening takes place in June for Y1. Pupils that do not achieve the required score resit in Year 2. Our phonics programme is Little Wandle.

Children will also be given reading books from school which match the phonics that children are learning in sessions at school. It is advised that when the children read the focus should be on decoding words accurately, without stopping too much. Then discuss the content of the book: explaining the meaning of vocabulary, linking stories to your own experiences and other stories. Reading books will be changed weekly. We would also encourage children to read for pleasure, which includes reading your own books from home or school.

All pupils are provided with a reading diary to log reading, and to share communications between school and home.

Foundation pupils are expected to share a book daily at home

KS1 Pupils are encouraged to read for at least 10 minutes a day at home

KS2 pupils are encouraged to read for at least 20 minutes a day at home, with the minimum expectation being three times a week.

From Foundation, pupils will work through coloured-book bands, linked to the application of their phonological knowledge. When a pupil has developed a mastery of decoding and comprehension they will be a free reader. The progress through these will be continually assessed by the class teacher. Free reader pupils will select books from the range of free reader books provided in their respective classrooms. The remaining pupils will continue on levelled texts, along with a book of their choice to continue to foster ownership and a lifelong love of reading.

Within school, reading is taught continually through sharing class texts, the teaching of phonics and spelling strategies, the teaching of close reading, Grammarsaurus grammar, quality first teaching of reading into writing, Talking books (our RSE scheme), reading aloud, drama, individual and group interventions, one to one reading and teachers sharing their own reading habits.

Reading behaviours are encouraged through: rewards; reading challenges (whole school and class); World Book Day; participation in events i.e. Empathy Day; library visits; reading for pleasure cafes; assemblies; special assembly; parent's workshops; Buddy partners; Reading Ambassadors; book fairs; author visits and online workshops, the Book Bus; children's work being published; Dojo points.

Due to our dedication and love of reading, we have been awarded the Bronze level Reading Pledge to acknowledge all the hard work of staff, parents and pupils.

