

Reading at Rhodes Avenue

At Rhodes, our primary aim is to foster a love of reading in all our children. We are passionate about ensuring all pupils have the reading fluency required to access the wonderful world of books as well as inspiring all pupils to read for pleasure. We are very lucky to have a fabulous school library which all pupils have access to and our school librarian is a font of knowledge when it comes to book recommendations. Every classroom has a book corner with a range of different texts and all pupils have the opportunity to listen to stories read aloud regularly as well as have the time to read their own book choices. We celebrate reading through frequent author visits, World Book Day and the use of quality texts not only in lessons but in assemblies and performances too. Most English learning is linked to the class' topic through a core text. We are also very lucky to have the support of many committed parent readers who help give pupils an extra boost through one-to-one reading sessions. In addition we have started a reading buddy programme in which older pupils read with and support those in younger years.

Learning to read

We start pupils' reading journey in Nursery by introducing them to phonics through the RML reading scheme and also high frequency key words. Children learn phonics daily in small groups tailored to their needs. Pupils take home banded books matched to the sounds they are learning so reinforcing new phonemes in context and giving parents and carers the opportunity to support their child's reading development. At the end of Year 1, all pupils do the National Phonics Screening test which assesses children's ability to apply the sounds they have learnt. This is an important step towards reading fluency. Pupils are also introduced to Monster Phonics resources which help to make phonics more visual and groups phonemes together through its use of colour coding. Comprehension skills are taught through teacher led small-group reading sessions until pupils are ready to participate in 'Big Read' sessions.

The Big Read

A love of books is promoted through whole class reading sessions, the 'Big Read'. This is whole-class reading time which allows all pupils to access the same high quality texts and share their ideas about language, characters, plot and text structure with each other. Pupils are exposed to a wide range of text types, including longer

novels, and are really encouraged to explore books in greater depth. Teachers carefully consider which texts will challenge and engage their pupils. Pupils are supported to use higher order thinking and questioning skills to develop their understanding of the text. Big Read sessions include discussion, written tasks, drawing, vocabulary work and drama

Comprehension skills

In addition to our Big Read sessions, pupils are taught explicit comprehension skills in English lessons. They are given the opportunity to practise reading texts of increasing lengths as a class, in groups or pairs and independently. This helps them develop the necessary skills for the end of Key Stage reading comprehension assessments (Year 2 and Year 6).

How we support pupils who find reading more challenging

Up until year 1, pupils are taught in targeted phonics groups enabling pupils to work at the best pace for them to make the most progress. Those pupils who need additional support with their phonics beyond Year 1, continue to have small-group phonic sessions into Year 2. Monster Phonics resources are used throughout Key Stage 1 and also into Key Stage 2 to support the development of phonetical knowledge into fluency of reading. We also have different reading intervention sessions for reading fluency, vocabulary and inference, as well as one-to-one parent reader support.

Reading Records

In the younger years, reading records are a useful way of encouraging communication about reading progress between staff and parents/carers. As pupils get older, they are encouraged to take more ownership over their reading records and use them as a way of reviewing books they read, as well as collecting interesting or new vocabulary.