

Our approach to reading

At BPS we believe that reading is a vital skill that opens the door to learning. It is our aim to develop enthusiastic and confident readers who read for interest, information and most importantly, pleasure!

Depending on the age and reading age of each child, the teaching of reading will differ following a progression from learning the mechanics of reading up to the teaching of higher level inference skills. Across the school, learning is based on the use of high quality texts: fiction, non-fiction and poetry, whilst explicitly demonstrating the link between quality reading and writing. We believe that competence in reading is the key to independent learning and therefore success in reading has a direct effect on progress in all areas of the curriculum, as well as a child's self-esteem, confidence and motivation.

Reading for pleasure is continuously encouraged from the early years setting through to Year 6. This is achieved by the sharing of texts with the whole class, enabling all children to access longer and more complex texts than they would be able to independently. Children have time to make choices about the books that they read; to share books with peers; discuss favourite books and make recommendations to others. Every class also has a DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) session on a Friday where they have time to enjoy their own books and develop stamina in reading for a period of time. We are very fortunate to have two well-resourced libraries who assist children throughout the school in developing an interest in reading.

Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1

In the early stages of reading development, Read Write Inc is the core scheme used to develop early reading. The scheme is phonics based and also develops skills in comprehension. The use of a large selection of other scheme and non-scheme books ensures that the children receive a rich reading diet at our school.

Children are encouraged to select quality picture books from the library to share and enjoy at home and school. In the foundation stage, children choose a book to bring to the class book corner to enjoy with their friends. Children share and read books to the teacher / teaching assistants / parent helpers on a regular basis and a reading diary is used to record positive comments and the books children have read. Children are rewarded for their reading by being entered into a weekly book raffle to win brand new book prizes!

Skills in retrieval, inference and evaluating are developed through visual literacy; using images rather than a text but preparing children for the transition to using texts in Key Stage 2.

Key Stage 2

Similar to KS1, a reading diary will be used to record positive comments as well as books read, and children participate in a weekly book raffle. Whole class reading sessions, entitled 'Book Talk', take place where the focus shifts from the decoding of words towards developing understanding of the text as a fluent reader. These sessions allow time for the children to use the skills of retrieval, inference and evaluating the impact of the text upon the reader through questioning and an analysis of the text.