



ENGLISH

Early Reading

When children enter our school we aim to foster in them an enjoyment of books, building on what will in most cases already have begun at home. They will be introduced to a wide selection of stories, poems and early information books. In these early stages, most children will need to focus on a knowledge and understanding of print, the alphabet and the development of phonic and graphic knowledge.

In Reception Class phonics is taught through the “**Jolly Phonics** Multi-sensory Programme” and follows the phases through the Letters and Sounds programme. In Key Stage One children continue to follow the Letters and Sounds phases and are taught in smaller groups according to their ability. They progress through the different phases with the aim that by the end of Year 2 children will have reached phase 6. However any children who have not achieved phase 6 by the end of Year 2 will continue with the Letters and Sounds programme in Years 3 and 4.

Independent readers

Children who have mastered enough cueing strategies and phonic skills to begin reading alone are guided through the first stages of the reading scheme and given individual attention. Parental help at home is invaluable at this stage, to reinforce what has been introduced in school. Guided reading in class will also begin at this stage.

Secure Readers

Secure readers in Key Stage 1, who are happy to read independently, will still be heard on an individual basis.

By Key Stage 2 emphasis will shift to guided and group work reading activities, but less confident readers will continue to be heard individually by an adult.

Children will be encouraged and guided to tackle fiction and non-fiction, and to experience a range of genres.

Resources

At the centre of our reading programme is the book banding scheme which enables children to experience a wide range of reading material, both fiction and non-fiction, without being tied to a particular programme.

Levels of difficulty are divided into colours, with the child moving on to a new colour at the teacher’s discretion.

By upper Key Stage 2 most children will progress on to more general reading books, categorized as “Silver Star”. Here they make their own choices and experience varying levels of difficulty and different types of reading material, fiction and non-fiction.

“Gold Star” books are the most demanding texts. Parents are encouraged to share and discuss these with their children.

