

English – Reading Intent, Implementation, Impact

Intent

At Sutton on the Forest Primary School, we value reading as a key life skill and we are dedicated to enabling our children to become life-long readers. We believe reading is key to academic success and fundamental in ensuring that children can access all areas of the curriculum.

By the time children leave our school we strive to ensure that they are competent and resilient readers who can read fluently and have a secure understanding of what they have read. We want our children to develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information and for them be able to recommend books to their peers.

We ensure that our children have a wealth of opportunities to develop a thirst for reading a range of genres including poetry and that they participate in discussions about books including evaluating an author’s use of language and the impact this can have on the reader. It is our intention that through reading and discussing a wide-range of high-quality literature, our children are exposed to new language and that they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing and when speaking.

Implementation

At Sutton on the Forest Primary School, reading is taught daily in EYFS and KS1 and four times per week in KS2. Children read in as many situations as possible, not just in reading lessons. Reading takes place in all lessons, using books and electronic devices. All children read and are read to so that they develop a love of reading. Books are selected by the teachers and English leads to ensure they are high quality and, where possible, link to other curriculum areas.

Our whole curriculum is shaped by our school vision which aims to value everyone to enable them to develop curiosity, ignite a love of learning, discover talents and reach their full potential in a caring and secure environment. We teach the National Curriculum, supported by a clear skills and knowledge progression. This ensures that skills and knowledge are built on year by year and sequenced appropriately to maximise learning for all children.

Reading for pleasure

We believe fostering a love of reading and encouraging children to read for pleasure is very important. We promote reading for pleasure in many different ways across school. Children who have been working hard on their reading at school or at home are awarded a bedtime box in our celebration assembly. In the box is a carefully chosen story for their age group and hot chocolate and biscuits for the children to enjoy with their family. Each half term the English and Early reading Lead plan a fun and engaging reading afternoon for the whole school to enjoy reading. As well as this, each class has a class story which is read to them every day. Class stories are selected by teachers according to their class topic and class interests.

Early reading in EYFS and KS1

Reading is the key that unlocks the whole curriculum so the ability to efficiently decode is essential. At our school, we use the Little Wandle phonics programme to teach our children in EYFS and KS1 the core skills of segmenting and blending and to start them on their ‘reading journey’. Little Wandle is an inclusive programme for all children learning to read. Children learn the 44 common sounds in the English language and how to blend them to read and spell. The use of pictures and memorable phrases is used to aid children’s retention and recall of phonemes for reading and spelling. Within daily phonic sessions, children have the opportunity to revisit previous learning,

practise and apply new skills in structured but engaging ways. Any child who is struggling to keep up with their peers is offered Little Wandle keep up intervention small group sessions helping ensure progress for all children.

In EYFS and KS1 children participate in reading practice groups three times per week focusing on the key skills of decoding, prosody and comprehension. Reading the same book three times ensures children become fluent at reading the book with expression and have a secure understanding of the text. Children then take their Little Wandle reading book home on a Friday to read for a fourth time with parents. Children also receive a bonus decodable book to read to parents at home and a 'book to love' which is a bedtime story which parents can read to their children to encourage reading for pleasure.

Whole-Class Reading in KS2

All children from Year 3 upwards take part in whole-class reading four times per week following Fred's Teaching planning. These sessions are based on a weekly theme and children are exposed to a few short extracts from different books/authors. These lessons teach a range of skills ensuring the National Curriculum reading domains are delivered. However the key reading skills taught are vocabulary, retrieval and inference.

Whole class reading is inclusive of all children and children with SEND needs take part in whole class reading activities with adult support or differentiated/scaffolded tasks. Children who still require decoding support receive rapid catch up from the Little Wandle programme and extra one to one reading with an adult outside of whole class reading sessions.

In KS2 reading is an important part of homework and KS2 children are expected to read regularly at home. We have a wide selection of Big Cat books for years 3 – 6 and a fully stocked library from which children can choose a home reading book.

Impact

Through the teaching of systematic phonics, our aim is for children to become fluent readers. This way, children can focus on developing their fluency and comprehension as they move through the school. Attainment in reading is measured using the statutory assessments at the end of Key Stage One and Two and the NFER reading tests in years 3 - 5. These results are measured against the reading attainment of children nationally.

By the end of KS1 and KS2 the number of children achieving the expected standard or above in reading has been in line with the national average for the last three years. The majority of children who attend our school leave as competent and confident readers ready for secondary school.

At Sutton on the Forest Primary, we firmly believe that reading is essential to all learning and so the impact of our reading curriculum goes beyond the results of the statutory assessments. We strive to provide all children the opportunity to enter the magical worlds that books open up to them. We strongly promote reading for pleasure as part of our reading curriculum. Children are encouraged to develop their own love of genres and authors and to review their books objectively. This enhances a deep love of literature across a range of genres, cultures and styles.