



Our Approach to the Teaching of Reading and Phonics



At Newberries Primary School we strive to ensure that every child becomes a successful reader and leaves school having developed a lifelong love of books and reading. Reading is the most significant factor to enable children to access all areas of the curriculum so it is given the highest priority.

Reading is taught using a range of methods:

- Guided reading sessions where children work in small groups of similar ability. The children read and respond to a text, often supported by the class teacher or teaching assistant. They may also carry out other reading related tasks during their guided reading sessions, such as listening to and enjoying stories at the listening stations, sharing and responding to books with others or follow-up work on a text already read with the teacher.
- Daily phonics sessions for the children in Reception and KS 1 and for those that require it at KS2. We teach children how the alphabet works and how we use our letter knowledge to put sounds together to make words in order to read them (blending) and how to break words into their separate sounds in order to write them (segmenting). This is taught through what we refer to as a 'structured synthetic phonics programme'. At Newberries this is based upon the 'Letters and Sounds' scheme and Phonics Play programme. All children up to Year 2 receive a daily phonics session as well as older children that may still require this. Phonics activities are multi-sensory and linked in with spelling and handwriting where possible. Teachers use half-termly assessments in order to group children according to their phonic needs. Whilst children are taught to use phonics as their first approach to reading, they are also taught high frequency words which don't follow the phonics rules. If you would like to learn more about the DfES (2008) 'Letters and Sounds Programme' please view the publication at: <http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letters-and-sounds>
- Children are encouraged to read for pleasure. Teachers have created a designated reading area in each of their classrooms containing a range of books and a comfortable cosy space to sit and read. We provide times where children can all read together and opportunities for peer reading. We have a wonderful school library filled with books to appeal to all ages, interests and covering all genres.
- Teachers regularly read aloud to the children and share books and stories to support with all areas of the curriculum. Through this the children will develop their language acquisition, imaginative thinking, knowledge and the pure love of reading.

Reading at home

- A high importance is placed on children reading at home. Books are taken home so that parents can help by listening to and reading with their children. This is an expectation as children who read regularly at home are more likely to become independent and successful readers.
- The children have a home/school learning book which is sent home and should be signed daily either by the parent/carer
- All our early reading books are colour banded, starting with lilac, where children enjoy 'reading the pictures' to gain meaning right the way through to lime and beyond. The children move their way through the book colour bands which become progressively more challenging with new vocabulary being introduced, longer texts, different genres and more complex plots. Children choose their own reading book from the colour band which their teacher has decided is the right reading level for them. We have a wide range of books from a variety of different reading schemes. When children are ready they will be supported to select non-scheme books to read at home. Teachers are always happy to discuss your child's progress with their reading and give suggestions on how you can support your child with reading. We want all children to feel successful and motivated when reading at home and at school.