



Phonics at Stowlawn Primary School

All pupils at the school who require phonic teaching receive a daily phonics lesson using the Read Write Inc phonics programme. The children are split into small groups, according to ability, and progress through the scheme until they are proficient at recognising and blending sounds and reading words fluently. Pupils receiving phonics lessons have an RWI phonics reading book each week that they are encouraged to read at home.

Reading Scheme

The reading scheme, following the phonics training above, used at Stowlawn Primary School is Oxford Reading Tree. There are a variety of elements to the scheme including fiction and non-fiction books and traditional tales. Children from Reception upwards use Oxford Reading tree, taking the stage book that is linked to their current RWI Phonics level. The scheme finishes at Stage 20 for advanced readers. Each stage is carefully matched to the child's ability. We encourage pupils to access the Oxford Owl website where they can also read many of the books online. (www.oxfordowl.co.uk)

All children read with an adult in school at least once a week, who signs their reading log. Children who are identified as needing extra support with their reading will be read with three times a week.

Sight vocabulary

We also encourage pupils to learn words "by sight". These words are the common words that are not easy to build up using phonic methods (common exception words) and need to be practised until they are instantly recognisable.

Reading at Home

All pupils are expected to read at home with the support of their parents/carers. Each child is given a book bag and reading log. Once children working within the RWI phonics scheme can access books, they are sent home with the phonics books they have been working on in school (this will usually be between three to five books a week depending on their reading level). The child will be able to read this book unaided and will enjoy sharing it with their parent/carer. Stage books are changed at school when a child has finished reading them. The frequency with which books should be changed depends on the length and complexity of the book, but most children should be changing their stage book at least once weekly. Parents can sign their child's reading log daily for home reading. This log can be for their stage book or another book they have been read with a parent/carer.



Books that children bring home, as a guide:

Children in EYFS/KS1

- An explicitly matched and decodable phonics book (once the children are undertaking the RWI phonics programme.)
- A colour-coded “book band” book generally matched to the child’s reading ability that is meant to offer some challenge.
- A completely free-choice library book to promote reading for pleasure.

Children in KS2

- A colour-coded “book band” book generally matched to the child’s reading ability that is meant to offer some challenge.
- A completely free-choice library book to promote reading for pleasure.

Please note, books are very expensive and so we ask all children and families to look after our books. If books are lost or damaged, we will respectfully ask for a £3 contribution per book to help us replace them.

Guided Reading

Guided reading is taught every week during literacy lesson time. Children are taught the skills of reading as a whole class, focusing on one text. All pupils then complete reading based work according to their reading ability. (Children working within the RWI phonics scheme receive guided reading sessions daily during phonics work). Readers Making Slower Progress Pupils who make slower progress with reading are given extra support, often individually and daily, with experienced staff. A variety of approaches can be used and these are tailor-made to support each child’s specific needs.

Adults Hearing Children Read

All children are heard individually read at least once per week in a one-to-one setting. Children will have focused time with an adult and undertake a range of short activities: talking about the book, reading the book aloud, reading the book together, discussing vocabulary choice, making predictions, summarising or making inferences about what has been read.

Readers Making Slower Progress

Pupils who make slower progress with reading are given extra support, often individually and daily, with experienced staff. These pupils will receive quality one-to-one reading time three times a week. A variety of approaches can be used and these are tailor-made to support each child’s specific needs.



Reading for Pleasure

To promote reading across the curriculum, pupils can enjoy reading in a variety of contexts. KS1 and 2 classes receive opportunities to read independently within the daily timetable. Children have access to a range of books across graded book bands and in their class libraries, as well as newspapers and magazines. Children can use laptops and iPads to read e-books by accessing Oxford Owl Reading Tree within school.

Each day, there is time set aside for teachers to read to their class, promoting a love of books and stories. Each year World Book Day is celebrated across school where pupils get the opportunity to be involved in a variety of exciting reading activities throughout the day. A book fair is also held regularly offering children access to a variety of books and further promoting the enjoyment of reading.

Our school library is open to all classes across school, with each class having allocated weekly time to explore the library and choose a book to take home. Books are loaned on a biweekly basis and the library is promoted and monitored by our chosen KS2 librarians.

Reading Rewards

The whole-school reading reward scheme gives children the chance to earn rewards for their reading. Children earn rewards based on how many signed logs they have completed in their reading log at specific intervals. The rewards increase in value with the number of logs they complete. Children can earn signatures for their logs when they read with an adult one-to-one at school, and once daily from parents at home.