

Reading Intent

At Fairfields Primary School, we place great importance on reading and know that reading can transport children to different worlds and send them on exciting adventures. Reading is at the heart of all our learning, and we view reading as the gateway to success across the curriculum.

We want all children at Fairfields to develop a life-long love of reading as well as develop the skills and fluency that they need to achieve. We promote a love of reading across school through reading displays in classrooms and shared areas, regular library visits, class stories/novels, reading events such as World Book Day celebrations, book fairs and other reading activities across the curriculum, as well as sharing reading at home.

By the time our children leave us at the end of Year 6, we want them to be able to read fluently, with great confidence, understanding and enthusiasm, in any subject so that they have every chance of meeting their full potential as they enter Key Stage 3.

We make explicit links between reading and writing and understand that language acquisition is vital to success as a reader, a writer and a learner. Across school we focus on learning and understanding the meaning of new words in different contexts, which then influences our reading and writing.

Early reading - phonics

As a school we use the Read Write Inc. program as our approach to phonics and early reading. Read Write Inc. is an ambitious systematic phonics program which enables children to read accurately and fluently whilst developing a wide range of vocabulary and a love of stories.

During Read Write Inc. lessons, children learn a new sound each day before practising reading and writing this sound within words. They also revisit previously taught sounds and words to increase their fluency. Children then read a carefully matched storybook which they read with a partner to develop their phonics and comprehension skills. Children will read these books over three days: one day to decode the book, one day to build their fluency and one day for their comprehension.

Children are carefully and regularly assessed and have a reading book that is exactly matched to their phonic knowledge to ensure that they can succeed at reading. Children begin the Read Write Inc. program in Early Years and will continue to progress through the program in Key Stage One and beyond until they reach a level of fluency where they are able to move off the program.

Daily reading practice

Reading is explicitly taught across the school through daily whole class guided reading lessons in Years 1 to 6. We approach the teaching of reading with great passion and enthusiasm, exposing children to a wide variety of text types and reading opportunities. During our daily reading lessons, children are taught reading skills known as VIPERS (vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and sequencing/summarising) to support their overall comprehension and help them to analyse a wide variety of texts and genres. Teachers select a breadth of high-quality age-appropriate

texts to share with the children, ensuring to include fiction, non-fiction, poetry texts that embrace diversity and inclusivity. Children are also introduced to a range of authors through our class reads, where teachers model reading for pleasure by reading aloud frequently to their classes, exposing them to rich language and classic stories which they may find too challenging to read independently. All classrooms have inviting reading areas for children to spend time reading independently.

How to support with reading at home

As a parent, you play a significant role in your child's early reading development. Parents who engage their children in books prepare them to become committed and enthusiastic readers. You can transform your child's attitudes towards reading. Your child will learn to focus and share the enjoyment for the story, they learn how stories start and finish, and how a plot unravels and is solved; they learn that books can transport them elsewhere. Your role as a parent in the teaching of reading remains paramount to your child's progress and when sharing a book with your child, we ask that you:

- Make reading aloud feel like a treat. Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so you can both see the book.
- Show curiosity about what you're going to read.
- Read through the whole story the first time without stopping too much. Let the story weave its own magic.
- Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.
- Read favourite stories over and over again.
- Let your child pause, think about and comment on the pictures.
- If you think your child did not understand something, try to explain.
- Talk about the story and the pictures.
- Link the stories to your own family experiences and other stories your child knows.
- Encourage your child to join in with the bits they know.

Useful links

- Free books
- Oxford Owl
- VIPERS
- VIPERS questions

