

The English Curriculum - Reading

'All pupils must be encouraged to read widely across both fiction and non-fiction to develop their knowledge of themselves and the world they live in, to establish an appreciation and love of reading, and to gain knowledge across the curriculum. Reading widely and often increases pupils' vocabulary because they encounter words they would rarely hear or use in everyday speech. Reading also feeds pupils' imagination and opens up a treasure house of wonder and joy for curious young minds.' - **National Curriculum 2014**

Reading underpins all we do. It is central to our curriculum.

Our English curriculum provides our children with a range of opportunities to develop their fluency in reading, writing, speaking and listening so that they can express their ideas, emotions, feelings and opinions clearly both verbally and in writing.

Our reading curriculum provides children with regular opportunities to access high quality texts pitched at appropriate levels through class story time, library sessions, whole class reading and independent reading comprehension sessions. Our class reading books cover a range of topics and genres, exposing children to a range of diverse characters and different cultures at an age-appropriate level.

In KS1, Teachers deliver a daily phonics scheme using Bug Club Phonics. This runs from phase 1 to phase 6. Home reading books are linked to the appropriate phase for each child, giving them independent access. Teachers read picture books and teach children how to take part in book talk. They ensure that children become engaged readers and develop a love of stories, poems, rhymes and books at the earliest of stages. Additionally, in Reception & Year 1, guided reading sessions take place each week.

In Years 2 – 6, children follow the Reading Explorers programme. This actively promotes the teaching and learning of specific reading skills. The children learn to access, interpret and understand a piece of text and are encouraged to become more independent thinkers and learners. All children access the same text.

Each classroom has a mini class library area stocked with a range of high-quality texts to enable children to browse the books and revisit texts read by their Teacher. These areas are designed to promote a love of reading.

Our school library is a calm learning space which promotes a love of reading and is full of a wide range of high-quality fiction and non-fiction. Children use the library at least once a week and are encouraged to take library books to share at home. Their library book will not necessarily match their reading level but will be a book they have chosen themselves to read for pleasure.

Each Class Teacher reads a class book daily, whether it be a picture book or a longer novel. This is an important part of the day when the class teachers model their enthusiasm for reading and create magic and excitement around the joy of reading a good book. Each book is displayed on the classroom door and added to the School Reading River display.

Each child has two reading books. One is a levelled reading book either from their Letters and Sounds Phase or Accelerated Reader ZPD. The other being a reading for pleasure/ sharing book from our school or class libraries. This may be above or below their reading level but is a book of their choice.

In KS2, we use the Accelerated Reader programme to monitor, assess and improve or 'accelerate' their reading skills. This computer programme provides children with a ZPD to guide their book choices. Once children have finished a reading book, they have an opportunity to complete a short quiz to test their understanding of the book. The children can earn small prizes for completing quizzes and Reading Ninja bookmarks for the points they earn. The children are encouraged to stretch and challenge themselves in their next book choice.

Teaching Assistants/volunteers read as frequently as possible with pupils on a 1:1 basis. Priority readers will be heard daily.

Children also complete independent reading sessions at least once a week.

At Pontesbury Primary, we often have Authors to visit the children to foster their enjoyment of reading and writing. These exciting visits engage the pupils with new stories, illustrations and the process of how books are created.