



Reading Rationale

January 2024

“I realized in a whiplash burst that those children, all mine for one year, might never reach their full potential as human beings if they never learned to read.”

Maryanne Wolf, 2018

Intent

A love for reading is embedded in the school’s culture at Lothersdale Primary School. The use of high-quality literature is interwoven into our curriculum through the use of key texts, exposing children to a wide range of genres and authors, enhancing the variety of topics that are taught. We believe that by immersing children in a positive culture of reading, they have opportunities to explore new ideas, places and cultures. Combined with the continuous development of children’s vocabulary, this enables children to become successful readers as well as becoming confident speakers and writers.

Reading is a key life skill. Children begin to read within the first few weeks of Reception, and it is our intention that all children will read with accuracy and automaticity before they leave Key Stage 1. As children move into Key Stage 2 and progress further through academia, the focus shifts into reading to learn, where children can confidently apply reading skills to access a wealth of new knowledge.

We ensure that all children receive consistent quality first teaching of reading skills allowing children to effectively access a culture of reading for pleasure.

Implementation

Our English curriculum is focused around age-appropriate core texts. These texts link, wherever possible, to class topics to continue developing vocabulary. Daily story times ensure all children develop a love of reading and listening to stories. Children at Lothersdale Primary School have access to a developing school library and a considered reading area within their classroom, where texts are purposeful and engaging. Reading displays throughout school are used so children can reflect on texts they have read, allowing them to make connections between personal experiences and the books they read. A wealth of reading opportunities are available for children to read for pleasure independently, as well as planned opportunities to celebrate reading such as World Book Day.

Reception and Key Stage 1 children begin each day with a dedicated phonics lesson, taught using Read Write Inc. All children are taught to read with fluency, accuracy and understanding through a variety of discrete and cross-curricular learning opportunities. Once children can read with accuracy and automaticity, they are taught reading skills (VIPERS) through group and whole class guided reading sessions. Within these sessions, we implement various strategies to ensure children are exposed to, and can use, a wide range of vocabulary and have opportunity to practise all the key reading skills, which can then be applied across the wider curriculum and during independent reading.

Interventions are carefully planned to allow the lowest 20% of readers keep up with their peers.

Impact

Through the implementation, children at Lothersdale Primary School enjoy reading, and can do so successfully. Children have a positive attitude towards reading and have a love of literature. Reading progress is measured through a range of frequent formative and summative assessment procedures, whilst also considering the age-related expectations for each year group. We ensure our pupils acquire good reading skills allowing them to access the world around them, and ensure they are academically prepared for each new stage of their learning, including life beyond primary school.