



Reading at Malmesbury Park Primary School



Reading is key to a child's learning and at Malmesbury Park, we know how important it is to work in partnership with parents and carers to help children to develop their confidence in this area. Reading together at home is one of the easiest but most important ways in which you can help your child. As you share books together, you will help to develop your child's reading skills and also show them how enjoyable and important reading is. Thank you for your support - it really makes a difference.

What reading skills and strategies do we teach at school?

Phonics is the key strategy which we teach in order to enable children to read the words they see. We follow the Letters and Sounds program. By using the phonics skills that they have learnt, children will be confident to tackle new words and go on to become fluent readers.

In Phonics, children are taught to

- Recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes
- Identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make - such as 'sh' or 'oo'
- Blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word
- Sound out words and blend them together (e.g. c-a-t)

As fluency develops, we focus increasingly on the children's understanding of what they have read and their responses to the text. We encourage children to

- describe or retell what they have read
- answer simple questions about the text
- 'read between the lines' and look for clues to gain a deeper understanding
- consider how texts are organised and how language is used effectively
- think about the writer's viewpoint
- make links between different texts

When do we teach reading at school?

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are taught Phonics in a structured way for 15- 20 minutes every day. It is the most effective way of teaching young children how to read. From Year 3 onwards, Phonics continues to be taught in small groups to children who are not yet confident.

Children are taught reading skills in class through our text based curriculum, with every project being based around a high quality book or books. Each child also reads in a small group with their teacher on a regular basis. This is a time when children have the opportunity to practise the skills they have learned and to talk about the book in more detail.

Children may also read individually with the class teacher, a teaching assistant or a parent helper. The frequency will depend on the child's individual need.

Children also have many other opportunities to read and enjoy texts as part of the wider curriculum, for example reading their own or a partner's work in class, carrying out research as part of a project, preparing for and presenting class assemblies or during a visit to the library. Your child's teacher will take advantage of opportunities to make links between reading sessions and other activities so that the children can practise their skills in context.

What do the children read?

Children will choose their individual reading book from our reading scheme which is colour banded. Your child's class teacher will ensure that your child knows the colour band that they are reading. This book needs to be taken home each day and can be changed when it is finished.

When children are reading in class or in a group with their teacher, they will be able to read their own copy of the project book.

As well as stories and information books, children also enjoy many other types of texts such as comics, newspapers, magazines, poems, plays, e-books, internet pages, audio stories, recipes, instructions, TV guides, travel brochures, sports reports.... We have opportunities in school for children to read many of these.

How are the Reading Diaries used?

All children will start the year with a Reading Diary which will need to be in school each day and taken home each evening. An adult will write in the diary when your child has read in school and we would ask you to write in the diary when your child has read at home and to sign/initial it. You are welcome to write a comment about what they did really well or anything they found difficult but please don't feel that you need to do this every time.

How can you help your child?

We would ask that you try to find time to read with your child every day at home. The session does not need to be too long - 10 minutes is fine. The support you can offer in this will be of great benefit to your child. Children also enjoy sharing books with other adults or older siblings....

We have included some Top Tips for reading at home inside the cover of your child's Reading Diary, together with suggested questions to get you both talking!

Your child should bring their colour banded book home every evening. Please let your child's teacher know if they are regularly forgetting. If your child would like to read something else instead sometimes, that is fine - please write it in their Reading Diary too. As long as they are reading and enjoying it, they are developing skills which they will carry into the future.

If your child is reluctant to read, don't force them or make an issue out of it. Talk to your child's teacher so that you can work together. Read to them as much as possible, try taking turns to read a page each, make up a game eg read each part using a different voice, use a favourite book to develop confidence before moving onto a less familiar one, try different types of texts such as comics or children's newspapers.

If your child reads aloud with confidence and fluency, don't insist on reading aloud all the time but at this stage you can help them to develop their understanding by talking to them about the meaning of any new words and by asking them to tell you about what they have read (try using the questions in the Reading Diary).

You could also....

Let your children see you reading - newspapers, magazines, catalogues, letters, books... - this will help them to understand that reading is an important skill. Encourage children to join you in reading the print which is all around us - labels, cereal packets and signs are all valid reading material!

Join the local library and make use of the facilities it offers. As well as providing a fantastic selection of books, many libraries run events and competitions to encourage a love of reading.

Don't give up on the bedtime story, even if your child is a good reader. The more stories they hear, the more they will want to read!