

Reading & Phonics

At Mottram CE Primary we believe that one of our most important duties as educators is to provide every child with the tools to become a 'reader'. We are passionate about teaching children to become confident readers and strive to develop a love for reading in all our children so that they go on to become critical thinkers, learners and questioning citizens in the future.

We teach the children to read using a wide range of strategies. These include the teaching of phonics to provide children with the ability to decode words, word aware sessions in which children are encouraged to discover and use new vocabulary, whole class/guided group reading sessions where they have the opportunity to discuss, analyse, infer and make predictions.

During their time at Mottram CE Primary a child will be introduced to a wide variety of high-quality children's literature. We encourage children to listen and share stories every day, this may include shared story time, individual reading, guided group or whole class reading. During this time, children are encouraged to respond and join in where appropriate.

The schools main reading scheme is Oxford Reading Tree (including Floppy's Phonics and Songbirds), however this is supplemented with other schemes including: Jelly and Bean, Rigby Star and Project X. Our books are colour banded to ensure appropriate challenge is provided for all children suited to their individual phonic and reading ability. The reading scheme across school is constantly evolving and as a result children are provided with books that not only challenge but also interest them and encourage a love of reading.

Phonics is a critical part of a pupils reading journey particularly in the early stages of reading development. We use Letters and Sounds, the Government guidance to teach the children phonics. This begins in Reception and develops listening skills in the early stages. We use pictures, songs, rhymes and actions (linked to RWI) to help the children remember the sounds. They are taught how to blend and segment words to help them read and spell. We plan fun and interactive lessons to engage young children and these sessions are timetabled four times a week in Early Years and Key Stage One.

Through the teaching of systematic phonics, our aim is for children to become fluent readers by the end of Key Stage One. This way, children can focus on developing their fluency and comprehension as they move through the school. Attainment in reading is measured using the statutory assessments at the end of Key Stage One and Two. These results are measured against the reading attainment of children nationally. Attainment in phonics is measured by the Phonics Screening Test at the end of Year 1.

However, we firmly believe that reading is the key to all learning and so the impact of our reading curriculum goes beyond the results of the statutory assessments. We give all children the opportunity to enter the magical worlds that books open up to them. We promote reading for pleasure as part of our reading curriculum.

Our 'love of reading' culture is fostered throughout school., All classrooms have a reading area where they are exposed to high quality age-appropriate texts. These are updated regularly linked to the children's interests and curriculum coverage. Here children are encouraged to develop their own love of genres and authors. This enhances a deep love of literature across a range of genres, cultures and styles. In addition to this all children have access to our school library during the school week and are invited to share/loan books from our library. They also have an opportunity to do this with parents/carers as part of our weekly

reading club. KS2 Reading buddies regularly read with our KS1 children and we have a slot timetabled where individual children are invited to share a story to another class. Members of our wider school community volunteer to take part in our 'Mystery Reader' sessions where they are invited to share a book of their choice with the children in our school to encourage positive reading role models.

At Mottram CE Primary, we value the contribution that parents make to the teaching of reading. A fundamental part of this is reading stories to their child on a regular basis. We also expect children to read at home and share their reading books with parents. A little and often approach linked to our 10 minute reading pledge is encouraged. It is important to remember that reading can include stories, poems, comics, magazines and newspapers. The home-school diary records each child's reading progress and is a valuable tool in sharing reading experiences both at home and in school. Throughout school each class provides positive rewards for reading practised both at home and in school.

By working together, we hope that our children will read with confidence, enthusiasm and enjoyment and go on to be lifelong lovers of reading.