

Reading

At Old Park we recognise reading as an essential life skill. Our main priority, however, is fostering a love and enjoyment of books so that our children to read for pleasure. We encourage and promote this in different ways:

- All classrooms have a designated book area;
- Teachers read to their class every day. This time is used by teachers to share their love of reading with the children and provide them with new experiences, expand their vocabulary and broaden their knowledge of authors and genres;
- All children are given a free book every term (which is owned by them and can be taken home);
- Our school library is being developed into a space where children can share and explore a wide range of books;
- Reading is a focus of our literacy lessons - quality texts are used that often relate to cross-curricular topics;
- Both fiction and non-fiction texts are studied, and links are made with real-life. Opportunities to discuss language and techniques used by authors are explored. Children share ideas and predictions and are continuously developing their reading skills.

In addition;

- Key Stage One and EYFS have a daily phonics lesson following the Read, Write Inc programme.
- Key Stage Two are enrolled in the Accelerated Reading Scheme. This system supports the children with their learning and next steps. It provides teachers with data that indicates a pupil's strengths as well as areas for development. A recommended reading level is given, which ensures all children are reading books with appropriate challenge and allows them to make progress.

We promote regular reading outside school. Clear, visible reward charts and class competitions are used to support this. In addition, events are held with parents to support them and their children with reading at home.

As a school, we are continuously looking to improve our offer and the resources available to all our children. This includes not only books, but newspapers, magazines, online articles and ebooks which are used to increase pupil engagement. We set high expectations for our pupils and encourage them all to reach their potential. Intervention is given on a regular basis to those who need further support or find reading a challenge. These include precision teaching, Toe by Toe and Read, Write Inc Fresh Start.

Writing

Throughout their time at our school, we encourage children to be confident, creative writers. Teachers in all key stages equip children with the necessary skills to write for a range of purposes and audiences. At Old Park, we firmly believe that children need to have a purpose for their writing. By using real contexts or topic-based learning, pupils have a clear reason to write. Modelled and shared writing is a key feature throughout school. This is used to embed spelling, grammar and punctuation, as well as broadening the vocabulary our children understand and use. Clear and achievable targets are set, which challenge all abilities and stretch the more able. All children are aware of their year group expectations and what their writing should look like.

In EYFS and Key Stage One, purposes for writing are:

- Writing to inform;
- Writing to entertain.

These are supported through the teaching of:

- Phonics;
- Correct letter formation;
- Key fundamentals in spelling and punctuation.

Across Key Stage Two, purposes for writing are:

- Writing to inform;
- Writing to entertain;
- Writing to explain;
- Writing to persuade.

These are supported through the teaching of:

- Spelling patterns;
- Punctuation;
- Powerful language.

In addition to this, opportunities are given for role play, reading aloud, debating, discussion, VR experiences and visits – which enable all children to participate and achieve success.