

Reading and Phonics

Intent:

At Abbey Hey, we value reading as a key life skill, and are dedicated to enabling our pupils to become lifelong readers. We believe reading is key for academic success and so to ensure we have a holistic approach to the teaching of reading, we implement the following.

- Children take part in daily Guided Reading lessons, where children are exposed to a range of different texts and can demonstrate their understanding and thinking behind these.
- We are very lucky to have a wide range of reading books in our school. All children from Nursery to Year 6 choose a reading book to take home and this reading book is changed weekly.
- Each classroom will have a selection of books in their classroom which are directly linked with the class topic. This offers opportunities for the children to apply their reading skills across the curriculum.
- Children are read to each day by their class teacher. This could be a book that the teacher recommends to the class or a recommendation from a child.
- Each classroom has a reading area that is filled with books suitable for their reading age. This is a comfortable place for children to read throughout the day.
- Children have the opportunity to take part in 'Reading Buddies', in which children mix with other children from different year groups and share a book together.
- Children who are not yet 'free readers', will work through our school reading scheme – these are levelled books which match the children's current reading age. We expect family at home to read these books with their child daily and make comments in their child's reading record.

By the time children leave Abbey Hey they are competent readers who can recommend books to their peers, have a thirst for reading a range of genres including poetry, and participate in discussions about books, including evaluating an author's use of language and the impact this can have on the reader.

At Abbey Hey, we use a synthetic phonics programme called 'Read Write Inc' produced by Ruth Miskin. Read Write Inc is a method of learning letter sounds and blending them together to read and write words. As part of this, children have daily phonics sessions in small groups where they participate in speaking, listening and spelling activities that are matched to their developing needs. The teachers draw upon observations and continuous assessment to ensure children are stretched and challenged and to identify children who may need additional support. Children work through the different phases, learning and developing their phonics sounds and knowledge.

Implementation

Teachers are provided with three planning days per year, in addition to their PPA, to plan their reading and phonics curriculum. As part of this planning process, teachers need to plan the following:

- A cycle of Guided Reading lessons, using a wide range of different texts;
- Question stems which are used to inform questions based on the class text;

- A Reading Chest with a mixed set of questions, one from each content domain, as appropriate to the guided reading text;
- A list of unknown vocab which appears in the class text.

In addition to this, teachers must plan time for children to be tested using the Accelerated Reader program. Once children have completed reading an AR book, they must take an online quiz. When children have completed 3 quizzes and scored 80% or higher, they then move onto the next level.

Teachers must assess children regularly against the Reading Key Performance Indicators (in Years 1-6) and against the Reading Early Learning Goal (in EYFS). These regular assessments inform planning and allow teachers to identify any gaps in learning.

Teachers also complete regular Read Write Inc. assessments and plot children onto a tracking grid, which ensures children are grouped appropriately in phonics.

Impact

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. Children are encouraged to develop their own love of genres and authors and to review their books objectively. This enhances a deep love of literature across a range of genres, cultures and styles.