



How We Teach Reading at Draycott and Rodney Stoke Church of England First School



English, communication and language lies at the heart of our capacity to imagine, think and create and make a crucial contribution to children's development as successful learners. Their developing use of language underpins children's achievement across the curriculum and lays the foundations of active involvement in cultural life, society, work and life-long learning.

"Reading is a passport to countless adventures"

Mary Pope Osbourne

How we teach reading

Reading is central to the curriculum at Draycott and Rodney Stoke First School. If a child cannot read fluently and with understanding, they will not achieve as well as they should in other subjects. They will also miss out on a crucial life skill that is also one of the most enjoyable past times that both adults and children can have. For these reasons we place great emphasis on how we teach reading. When it comes to successfully learning how to read, we have clear expectations for staff and children, and for how parents can support their child developing as a reader.

Early Years and Key Stage One

At Draycott and Rodney Stoke First School we promote a 'phonics first' approach to reading and we use Unlocking Letters and Sounds for the planning of our high quality, systematic phonics programme. We begin teaching phonics in the first term of reception to ensure that children have a firm foundation in their reading journey. We use phonetically decodable books that are carefully aligned to the Unlocking Letters and Sounds Scheme. In addition to this, children are immersed in stories throughout the wider curriculum provision, with opportunities provided for children to read independently, with their peers or be read to by an adult.

Key Stage 2

We build on the children's early reading success by continuing the teaching of reading in Key Stage 2. This is delivered through whole class sessions where children are taught strategies to support their comprehension. These specific skills include predicting, questioning, clarifying, summarising and activating prior knowledge. High quality texts are selected to support the teaching of these key skills and teachers model and scaffold these strategies, as children become independent and confident readers.

How we make reading exciting and motivating for the children

We use exciting and engaging texts to help bring all areas of the curriculum to life. Our topic learning is supported by well-known and well-loved books by the best current and classic authors. Every classroom is stocked with high quality books and we use these books to motivate, engage and challenge all children. Creating and responding to all kinds of texts offers access to the world of knowledge and imagination and generates lasting enthusiasm and enjoyment.

Book Week

The school annually has a focus week for reading, built around World Book Day. This allows the children to have extended opportunities to build their skills and knowledge in reading and promote a further love of reading. In addition, the school also welcomes the book fair twice a year, where children can access and choose from a wide selection of books that aim to meet the interests and varied age range of our readers.

How we assess reading

We assess children's reading skills from the very beginning of their reading journey. Once children have mastered phonics, a more formal reading assessment task may be administered to ensure there is an accurate view of the child's current reading abilities.

How we help children who find reading difficult

Regular assessment throughout the teaching of phonics helps to ensure gaps and misconceptions are addressed as early as possible. Swift, regular 1:1 short intervention is put in place, which helps to ensure all children make the expected progress. Where children's reading difficulties do not relate to phonics, an intervention with a focus on comprehension may be necessary.

How Parents can help their children with Reading

Reading at home gives children the vital practice they need to become confident, fluent readers. Reading with children and practicing their phonics at home each day, will make a huge difference to their progress and future outcomes. Books that are sent home are closely matched to a child's current phonics phase so that each child can achieve success in their reading. As children progress beyond phase five phonics, they move onto our coloured book band scheme so they can continue to build and progress in their decoding, fluency and comprehension skills and become avid, expert readers. Alongside these reading scheme books, children are encouraged to take a book home of their choice to share and read alongside an adult in order to promote a love of reading.

"Reading should not be presented to children as a chore, a duty.

It should be offered as a gift"

Kate DiCamillo