Curriculum: Intent, Implementation and Impact

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Intent

We want to ensure that all our children are taught to read quickly, accurately and with fluency. This is achieved through the use of systematic synthetic phonics, more specifically through the Read Write Inc. (RWI) programme.

Children learn the 44 common sounds in the English language and are taught how to blend these sounds to decode (read) words.

Implementation

The teaching of reading begins in Nursery where the children are introduced to letter sounds (rather than letter names). Once the children are confident with the initial sounds they are taught to segment and blend the letters in words in order to decode (read) and in order to encode (write). The children usually begin to do this in Reception, following the structure of the RWI Phonics programme, where they are grouped according to their rate of progress. Children progress from singular Set 1 sounds, through Set 2 sounds and then on to more complex Set 3 sounds. In order to ensure effective and targeted teaching, children are assessed each half term. This allows for sounds gaps to be identified and remedied through tailored one to one 'Fast Track' tutoring.

As well as revising and learning new phonic sounds, the children will apply and develop their phonic and reading skills to reading a range of phonic books, both fiction and non-fiction. This rigorous programme is reinforced with a home-school book lending system which allows children to take home a RWI 'Book Bag book' matched closely to their phonic ability. In addition, children take home a book that can be read to them by another adult or older sibling.

Impact

The children are encouraged to develop the ability to read at speed, with fluency and expression, and to read like a 'story-teller'. They discuss many aspects of the book in order to answer comprehension questions verbally and the content of these books become gradually more complex. Throughout this process there is a focus on reading for enjoyment.

Once pupils are able to decode confidently, the focus shifts to developing pupils' comprehension skills. Comprehension skills are taught initially through Read Write Inc. Comprehension. The RWI Comprehension programme develops children's' comprehension of, and response to, a variety of texts so that they become critical thinkers engaging with texts. Comprehension activities are designed to help children to infer, summarise, question, clarify, predict and argue a point of view, based on evidence from the text. The children also make connections between texts and their own experiences. We use higher order questioning to ensure pupils reach age-related expectations, and beyond, and that they are well challenged. The key skills of reading being learned and practised include retrieval of information, exploration of the language, an analysis of textual structure and grammatical conventions, deduction and inference.

Using the Read Write Inc. Phonics and Comprehension programmes we teach children to:

- Read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- Develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- Write clearly, accurately and coherently, adapting their language and style in and for a range of contexts, purposes and audiences