



Did you know?

Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success, more than family circumstances, parents' educational backgrounds or income.

-Organisation for Economic Co-Operation & Development

Monday 21 February 2022

Reading and World Book Day

With World Book Day fast approaching, we thought this was a good opportunity to update you about Early Reading in the Infant school and our plans for World Book Day.

Early Reading

In January, following guidance from the Department for Education that schools should have a complete systematic synthetic phonics programme (SSP), Cunningham Hill signed up to Essential Letters and Sounds Phonics. Children in Reception and Year 1 have started following the daily phonics programme and will be working through the phases in a systematic way. Some Year 2 children will also be accessing phonics interventions if they are not yet secure with their phonics. More information about phonics is available on our website.

Reading (Phonics) Book

In terms of reading, all children who are not yet consistently confident with all 6 phases of phonics should have a phonics reading book that is matched to the phonics phase they are currently learning. At our school, we are calling this their **Reading book**. This book will need to be read at least 4 times to an adult, as the learning of the phonics works by repetition and overlearning. Often parents will say that this book is too easy and their child has already read it, but this is part of the learning process and very important for the securing of their phonics so they can recognise and read these sounds automatically.

Children will have a phonics reading book until they are fully confident in all phases of phonics, (which for many children will be by the time they get to year 2 or later). After this, the children will be given colour band reading books that get progressively more difficult, until they move onto having just library books by the time they get to a certain reading level.

Sharing book

All children will also have one or two **sharing books** (either from book schemes or the library), which may be more challenging, but are meant to be read with, not to, an adult. This is so an adult can help with tricky words for both decoding and definition and share some of the reading if needed. This enables the children to have access to harder books that grab their attention and they can share for pleasure. In this way, we hope that children continue to develop a love for reading for pleasure, which is so important for their reading growth.

World Book Day – Thursday 3 March 2022

For World Book Day this year we giving the children the opportunity to dress up as a favourite book character, which they can then share in class. There are no prizes for the best-dressed outfits, as we would rather children focus on the characters than on which is the best outfit they can create. During the day, some of the children will also have the opportunity to watch a live stream of children's authors talking about books as part of the World Book Day events.

At 2.45pm we would like to invite an adult into school per child to share a book for pleasure. If any child doesn't have an adult available to come to school, then we will ensure they have an adult from school to read with.

The children will also be given a World book day token, which enables them to buy special £1/£1.50 books from local bookshops created especially for World Book day.

It would be great if you could share with your children the books you enjoyed as a child and what you like to read now, to reinforce that reading isn't just something you do as part of school. We really believe that reading is the cornerstone to learning and if we can get children reading for pleasure, then this will foster a love of reading for life.

If you would like to access any of the family resources for World Book Day, here is the website - <https://www.worldbookday.com/>

Did you know?

Reading for pleasure is at its lowest level since 2005*

We want to see more children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, develop a love of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings them.

National Literacy Trust Reading Practices in Lockdown, 2020

Did you know?

Children who read 20 minutes a day are exposed to 1.8 million words in one school year. They are also more likely to score in the 90th percentile on standardized testing.

Primary school students who read an average of 30 minutes a day score on average 2 levels higher by the time they reach GCSE'S, than those who read for an average of 10 minutes a day.

The Reading Trust