

Approach to the teaching of reading

At Bowesfield, much of our work is planned around stories and texts. We often use these as a starting point to explore questions and topics in different curriculum areas. Examples within the past year have been:

The Highwayman – Alfred Noyes

There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom – Louis Sachar

Macbeth – William Shakespeare

Leon and the Place Between – Graham Baker-Smith

and the use of traditional tales in Key Stage 1 and Early Years.

Each teaching area has a designated reading area, stocked with books which the children have been involved in choosing, and others chosen by staff to widen their knowledge of books and writers.

It is very important to us that children enjoy reading and we provide high quality texts for them to use throughout school. This includes fiction, non-fiction, poetry, reference books and screen based texts.

These books are used alongside by our key reading schemes, PM, and Oxford Reading Tree plus a mixture of other scheme books. We teach children to read using a variety of methods including systematic, synthetic phonics and whole and key word recognition, developing reading skills and positive attitudes to books. Scheme books are colour banded according to level of difficulty so that children read books which challenge and improve their reading skills, while understanding the text.

Children at Bowesfield are taught reading in a range of ways.

- Systematic, synthetic phonics taught daily in small groups. From Reception children are grouped by ability so that each child gets the right support for their next step in learning.
Phonics is taught from nursery, using Letters and sounds, with an emphasis on fun, practical activities. For children who need it, phonics teaching continues into Key Stage 2. We use 'Letters and Sounds', 'Jolly Phonics' and 'PM' books.
- Individual reading. This is led by teachers, teaching assistants and for children who need extra help, by the Reading Recovery teacher.
- Group reading. Using the Reciprocal Reading approach, children read and discuss texts to deepen their understanding and comprehension.
- Being read to. Throughout school, children are read stories and texts at an appropriate level on a regular basis.

For more information on your child's reading journey, please see their teacher.