

## **Approaches to reading at Bowesfield**

It is very important to us that children enjoy reading and so we provide high quality texts for them to use throughout school. These include fiction, non-fiction, poetry, reference books and screen based texts. We want children to develop a love of books, an enjoyment of reading for pleasure and to master this essential life skill.

Our aim is to enable children to become successful readers through the specific teaching of the strategies and skills. This includes modelled, shared, guided and independent reading and opportunities for learning are provided both within English lessons and beyond, through the wider curriculum.

The teaching of reading has a high priority throughout school. Lots of our work is planned using quality texts as a stimulus because this captures children's interest and engages them. For example, high quality texts are frequently used as a starting point for writing and to explore questions and topics in different curriculum areas.

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.

All children from Reception to Y6 take part in daily reading tasks in the form of a Guided Reading Activity. Texts are carefully chosen to ensure the children read across varying genres and cover a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

Each year group has a defined set of non-negotiables for reading. Please ask in school for more details.

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

### **- Systematic, synthetic phonics taught daily in small groups (Read, Write Inc.)**

From Reception, children are taught using Read, Write Inc. phonics. At the core of the programme is the lively and vigorous teaching of synthetic phonics. Children learn the 44 common sounds in the English language and how to sound-blend words for reading (decoding) at the same time as developing handwriting skills and spelling (encoding). As their confidence in decoding develops they are taught to comprehend and compose ideas for their own writing. The children have the pleasure of reading exciting storybooks perfectly matched to their level – so that they have early success in reading.

The children follow a structured programme of reading and writing activities in groups of up to 12. All staff at Bowesfield have been trained in the delivery of this programme.

### **- Individual reading**

With teachers, teaching assistants and volunteers in school. Children are targeted according to need. We ask that children read individually at home with an adult at least three times a week.

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### **- Group/guided reading**

During group/guided reading, children read and discuss texts to deepen their understanding and comprehension. Reading journals are used to develop reading comprehension skills and give children the opportunity to respond to questions in writing.

### **- Being read to and modelled reading**

Throughout school, children are read stories and texts at an appropriate level on a regular basis. Modelled reading allows the teacher to explicitly demonstrate the process of **reading** by 'thinking aloud' about the strategies that are being used to decode words, comprehend meaning and read with fluency and expression.

Children are encouraged to read regularly, both at home and school. We ask that families support this by encouraging children to read with them as they learn to read. As they become more proficient readers; families are asked to support them in their understanding of what they are reading.

Reading at home forms a vital component of the school's approach with parents/carers being encouraged and supported in taking an active role in the development of their child's reading. We ask that families support their children by reading with them at home and talking to them about the text at least 3 times a week.

We support children who need additional opportunities to read and discuss texts through the use of volunteer readers, including trained readers from Beanstalk.