



Devonshire Park Primary School Approach to Reading and Phonics

At Devonshire Park Primary School, we provide a reading programme that both develops reading skills and promotes a love of reading. We aim for our children to become confident, independent readers as they move from “learning to read,” towards “reading to learn.”

In Foundation and Year 1, we follow the Read Write Inc Phonics programme to directly teach children the 44 common sounds in the English language and how to blend those sounds into words. Children are taught in small groups by teachers and teaching assistants who have been trained in the use of the programme. They read lively story books and non-fiction books containing words they can decode, so they achieve early success in reading. Through well-planned and careful questioning, they are also taught to comprehend what they are reading. Alongside this structured approach, Children choose books to take home to read, and enjoy daily class story readings of quality children’s books. Children take the Phonic Screening test at the end of Year 1

In Year 2, we build on children’s phonic knowledge by continuing to teach and revisit the more complex sounds and to further develop children’s comprehension skills through daily small group guided reading and phonic sessions matched to their abilities. The Power of Reading programme begins to be introduced where classes study high quality texts in depth over a period of time in order to promote a love of reading and inspire them to read further. Children continue to choose books to read at home and to enjoy story readings at the end of the day. Children who did not achieve the required standard in Year 1, retake the phonic screening test at the end of Year 2.

In Years 3 to 6, the Power of Reading programme develops, using longer and more complex texts as children’s reading abilities increase. In depth study of high quality and inspiring books engages children and promotes a positive attitude towards reading across school. Home reading is actively encouraged and promoted through the use of reading diaries. Home reading books have been carefully selected to reflect children’s interests, and to ensure they appeal to all, especially boys. Timetabled small group guided reading sessions take place in all classes, where well-planned and detailed questioning continues to develop children’s comprehension, inference and deduction skills.

All classes in school have exciting and appealing reading areas containing high quality, age appropriate children's literature from which children choose books to read throughout the school day. Our school library is also open every lunchtime for children to choose from a wider selection of books.

Standardised tests in reading are carried out termly to identify pupils who need additional support to become fluent and confident readers. These children are supported by appropriate interventions, including the 1-1 Catch up to Literacy programme.