St Francis C of E School

Teaching of Phonics and Reading Statement

Aims:

At St. Francis we believe that reading is a skill which is taught through planned, systematic phonics lessons which lead to the enjoyment of all kinds of books, the appreciation of different genres and the ability to access information independently. Through their own reading, we hope that children will develop their individual tastes in literature and be able to understand and justify their own choice of books.

Our Primary aims are:

- To develop phonetic skills which lead to blending and reading fluently.
- To promote confidence and positive attitudes to reading.
- To promote and encourage good home/school links using a wide range of literature.
- To equip children with critical tools so they are able to analyse what they read.
- To give children access to a wide range of fiction and information books.
- To monitor each child’s progress through the use of a range of assessment strategies e.g Reading Age tests, ongoing reading observations, application of APP (Assessing Pupils Progress) criteria.
- To support those who are progressing slowly in acquiring reading skills through a personalised reading program.

Approach

At St Francis C of E School we follow the Read Write Inc approach to teaching Reading and Phonics, supplemented with additional reading materials. Our approach is systematic, consistent and rigorous in order that all children become readers as quickly as possible.

We use the same phonics program across the school providing continuity and a vehicle for guaranteed progression.

RWI sessions take place four times a week; In Foundation stage through to Year 2 at 9.00-9.30 every day apart from Friday

Pupils are taught in ability groups from Reception to Year 2 thus enabling them to be taught according to their reading level not their age group. Teaching is very precise and tailored to the needs of each child.

The alphabetic code is taught first with children learning new sounds and practising pronouncing and blending these sounds on a daily basis. Simple mnemonics help the children grasp the letter sounds quickly. Then we match the sounds pupils know to the books they read, getting children to read those books a few times which helps them to read using a story tellers voice. Additionally children hear lots of other stories in school thus increasing their story, knowledge and vocabulary.
We have a Reading Manager, Rachel McDermid, who leads the school reading team. She helps to teach, monitor and assess all groups, providing training and support for all RWI leaders.

Children are assessed on a very regular basis (6 weekly) and are taught in groups according to ability.

Information sessions have been run in the Autumn Term for parents and more information is available at http://www.oup.com/oxed/primary/rwi/forparents/

Once children have reached the end of the RWI programme, they are then taught to read in Comprehension sessions with their Class Teacher, using a variety of scheme books and real books. The focus then shifts to developing higher order reading skills such as inferring meaning in texts and materials are chosen according to the learners’ needs.

Some children may require additional support in KS2 and so follow a one-to-one RWI program.

Pupils take reading books home from the classroom to practise some of the skills they are learning in school. These books are banded according to level and are used to share with an adult at home.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact your child’s class teacher.