

Early Reading at Hawley

Intent

At Hawley, we want pupils to maximise their learning opportunities across all curriculum areas by becoming competent readers early on in their school experience. Reading is at the very heart of successful learning and enables children to become independent in broadening their knowledge and understanding. In the EYFS and Year 1 we focus on rapidly developing skills for decoding texts along with an emphasis on comprehension and prosody, or reading with expression. This provides children with the skills necessary to fully access the Year 2 curriculum. The children are provided with a wide range of books, including fiction and non-fiction which extend their vocabulary, inspire their creativity and provide them with experiences both relevant to their lives and reaching out into the wider world. This is further enhanced by reading for pleasure, which we value not just as a means for improving reading skills, but also as a way to enrich children's lives. Our curriculum is designed to allow all pupils to make good progress from their starting point, wherever that may be.

Implementation

On entry to the EYFS and continuing throughout Year 1, children are taught daily phonics lessons using our Department for Education validated scheme Little Wandle Letters and Sounds.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

This Systematic Synthetic Phonics scheme supports carefully structured teaching of the way in which spoken and written language is made up of speech sounds: phonemes and the way in which these are written: graphemes. This enables children to develop the skills they need to sound out and blend words for reading and to segment them for spelling. 'Tricky' words, which cannot be wholly sounded out, are also taught alongside this. The children practise using their phonics skills by reading decodable phonics reading books which are carefully matched to their current phonics learning. This takes place three times a week in a small group with a trained adult. Reading books are sent home weekly for children to practise what they have been learning in school. Each classroom has a well stocked book corner with a wide range of quality books for the children to access throughout the day. These are carefully selected by teachers to provide a range of representations and experiences which are relevant to the class and their current learning in literacy and other subjects areas. Children can choose from these books weekly to take home and share with their families. There is a daily story time in which teachers plan and read books to the class with a focus on reading for pleasure and language development. In the EYFS, children have regular poetry and rhyme sessions and in Year 1 there is a daily poetry session in which children learn poems and then recite them for their families via the online learning platform.

Impact

Children's progress is continually monitored through formative assessment: daily adult observation and summative assessment: Little Wandle half termly assessments. Children who need extra support are identified and provided with 'keep up' support in the form of one to one or small group interventions with a trained adult. As reading skills are entirely reliant on language development and communication skills, children having difficulties in this area are assessed and, where appropriate, given small group support using such as NELI (Nuffield Early Language Intervention) and Talking Partners. Children who continue to need support with phonics in Year 2 are given small group interventions to fill gaps identified by assessments. All Year 1 children are assessed on their use of phonics by the government phonics screening check.

We aspire to instil a lifelong love of reading in all pupils which will facilitate their learning experiences, broaden their horizons and bring great enjoyment.