



## Reading

### **Intent**

At Westfields Infant School, we want children to develop the knowledge, skills and competencies to access the next stage in their learning. In addition to this, we actively encourage and motivate the children to develop positive attitudes, skills and habits so that they are well equipped for the future.

At Westfields Infant School, our intention is to provide children with a high-quality English curriculum that will teach children to speak, read and write fluently so that they can communicate effectively. Our aim with our reading curriculum is that all children develop the knowledge, skills and tools to become independent readers and build a lifelong love of reading.

We believe that a high-quality English curriculum should develop a child's love of reading and ensure that by the end of Key Stage 1, all children will be confident, capable and enthusiastic readers who can apply their skills to access all areas of the curriculum, as well as nurturing their own enjoyment for these key skills.

By the end of Key Stage 1, our children will use a variety of reading skills from early synthetic phonics to decoding and skimming to enable them to access all other areas of learning. We actively encourage our children to read and experience a range of vocabulary and story language through our 'rich texts' English curriculum. We encourage children to read their work for enjoyment, to read it aloud to others which also provides audiences for writing.

At Westfields Infant School, our reading curriculum has been developed based on the area of learning of Literacy within [Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage](#) and the [National Curriculum for English](#)

The National Curriculum for English aims to ensure that all pupils:

- read easily, fluently and with good understanding
- develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information
- acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage

### **Implementation**

#### **Phonics**

Phonics plays an important role in the development of early reading. In Reception and Year 1, we use a complete systematic synthetic phonics programme called 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised'. All teaching staff are trained to deliver this programme, using resources specifically provided for this rigorous scheme.

In Reception and Year 1, children have daily phonics sessions during which they learn and practise a clearly sequenced progression of letters and sounds. Their progress is assessed every six weeks. Focused interventions are used to enable children to keep up and catch up with the pace of the scheme. In June of Year 1, children undertake a Phonics Screening Check to ensure they are secure in Phase 5 Phonics. In Year 2 and thereafter, children move on to learn word spellings and patterns following the National Curriculum, using the Little Wandle Spelling Programme.

As part of the Little Wandle Phonics Programme, children read books with a trained adult three times a week. Each read has a specific focus:

1. **Decoding** – developing accuracy and applying phonics knowledge
2. **Prosody** – reading with expression and understanding
3. **Comprehension** – discussing meaning, vocabulary, and understanding the text

These books are matched to the child's phonic understanding so that they encounter words containing the letters and sounds they are secure with. As the children progress through the programme, the books they encounter will increase in phonic complexity to reflect the range of letters and sounds they have been taught.

Once children have successfully completed the Little Wandle phonics programme and demonstrate secure phonics knowledge, they transition to the Little Wandle Fluency programme. This next stage is carefully designed to build fluency, prosody and comprehension, enabling children to become confident, independent readers. The fluency programme continues to provide structured support as children encounter increasingly complex texts, helping them to read with greater speed, accuracy, and expression.

This progression ensures a consistent, research-based approach to early reading that supports every child from decoding to fluent reading. Children who need additional reading opportunities read in additional one to one or group situations.

### **Practice and Take-Home Books**

To support fluency, comprehension and confidence in reading, each child reads their Little Wandle reading book three times in school before it is sent home. After these three reads, the same book is sent home for children to celebrate their reading success and consolidate their learning with family members. This consistent, repeated approach helps build confidence, fluency and a positive reading experience.

We also use the Collins eBook Library, accessible through the Collins hub app. This platform allows children to access all the Little Wandle books matched to their current phonics phase and reading level. Families can log in from home to access a wide range of decodable books, helping to reinforce learning and provide additional opportunities to practise reading in a fun and engaging way.

At Westfields Infant School, we have a well-stocked and inviting library which all of the children visit each week to change their books. Children of all ages are encouraged to select individual reading books from the classroom and the school library to enjoy during the school day and at home.

### **Reading Skills**

Reading skills are taught on a regular basis from Reception through Key Stage 1. From Year 2 onwards, we use 'VIPERS' (Vocabulary, Infer, Predict, Explain, Retrieve, Sequence/Summarise) as a prompt for helping children develop core comprehension skills. We feel it is important that children acquire a secure understanding of a text and can express their response to a question in both an oral and written format. All English learning journeys have rich texts as a stimulus and a range of texts are looked at throughout the year. This helps the children to experience a wide range of texts and different genres.

## **Wider reading**

Reading opportunities are provided across the whole of our curriculum. Children are actively encouraged to develop a love for the written word and we organise a range of events and activities to promote reading. Each class has at least one story session per day when children have an opportunity to hear a story being read by an adult who can model fluent expressive reading. We take part in World Book Day and have our own reading celebrations throughout the year such as our Reading Matters Week.

## **Dino Reading Rewards**

As a school, we run our Dino Reading Scheme to create a positive reading culture for our children – it is designed to encourage children to read at home, encourage parents to be aware of the reading their child does and promote a love of reading. Each term, children are awarded a certificate based on the number of reads completed.

## **Impact**

The impact of our reading learning and provision can be seen when hearing children read, their reading records and by speaking to the children themselves. We measure the impact regularly through:

- Whole class and verbal feedback
- Recapping prior learning at the beginning of each lesson and plenary activities
- Teacher assessment, self-assessment and peer assessment of learning
- Submission and subsequent analysis of end of term reading judgements, identifying children not achieving expected standard and those exceeding
- Subject monitoring e.g. pupil conferencing, book monitoring and planning monitoring

As we believe that reading is key to all learning, the impact of our reading curriculum goes beyond the result of statutory assessments. When children leave Westfields Infant School, they will have made a strong start to their reading journey. They will be able to confidently decode words, be developing independence, fluency and enthusiasm when reading, have a good understanding about what they have read and engage in discussions about texts. Children will enjoy reading and listening to stories in Westfields Infant School and will often choose to read for pleasure. Parents will have a good understanding of how they can support reading at home and will contribute regularly to reading records.