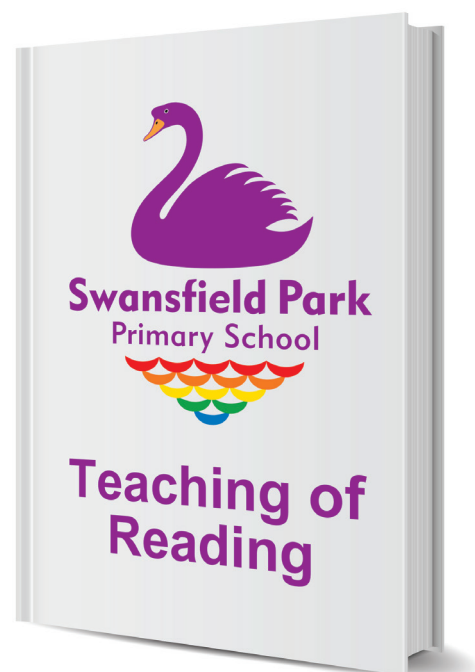


The Teaching of Reading at Swansfield Park Primary School



Reading is an essential skill for life and so we strive to ensure that our children

- are confident and skilled decoders and interpreters of the written word
- understand its vital importance to the success of their education and future life
- develop the foundations of a life-long love of literature.

We teach and nurture reading skills in many ways and these are detailed in this document.

Sharing Stories Together

From the very first day in Early Years, to the last day in Year 6, storytelling and story time is an essential and valued part of the school day. By sharing high quality stories and literature, teachers and teaching assistants fire our children's imaginations. These shared times also develop children's understanding of story structure, their ability to predict, infer, understand the feelings and actions of characters and use of picture cues.



Age appropriate picture books are used in all year groups across school and from Key Stage One upwards, children also experience chapter style class reading books which develop the ability to 'paint a picture of a story in the mind.'

Across school, we consider it important that children listen to stories told by a range of people. For this reason, our youngest children in Early Years enjoy 'Secret Reader' sessions which involve



a surprise visitor to the setting to tell their favourite story. Further up school, regular opportunities are found for guest story telling opportunities.

Guided Reading

From Reception to Year 6, children take part in guided reading sessions. From Reception to Y4, this takes place once a week and for Year 5s and Y6s, once a fortnight. These sessions are led by a teacher, higher level teaching assistant or teaching assistant. All staff delivering guided reading sessions have a clear understanding of the reading objectives that need to be taught in that school year. These sessions are delivered to individuals, pairs or small groups. The focus of guided reading is two-fold. Firstly, children have time to practise and improve their decoding skills, particularly in Reception and Key Stage 1 in which opportunities to apply phonic and key word skills are always present. Secondly, children take part in discussion work about the text that they are reading. Children ask and answer questions, talk about events and locate relevant information in the text, make predictions and inferences and offer their thoughts and opinions. Children are always given a book or a section of a book to read at home. Just as the guided reading group leader always makes a progress comment in the child's reading record book, parents, carers and the children themselves are also encouraged to do this on a weekly basis. This ensures that a strong home, school partnership that is essential to reading progress is established and maintained throughout a child's time at Swansfield.



At Swansfield Park Guided Reading is taught through:

- Oxford Reading Tree
- OUP Treetops
- OUP Non-Fiction
- Oxford Literacy Web
- High quality children's fiction, non-fiction and poetry.



Reading within the English Curriculum and Beyond

The National Curriculum for reading is taught within class English sessions in Key Stage 1 and 2. Within the EYFS, children's reading is progressed through the developmental bands with children working towards achieving or exceeding the Early Learning Goal.

Coverage of the reading curriculum is made explicit in termly/half termly plans and these are available to view on class pages of the school's website. These plans also detail the high quality texts that may be used to cover the set objectives and programme of study.

In line with our mastery led approach to teaching and learning, we ensure that our children have wide and varied opportunities to practise and apply reading skills across the entire curriculum. This means that there are planned opportunities to research, locate information and follow written instructions in all subject areas. In addition, time and care is taken to ensure that children experience reading beyond the classroom through educational visits and guests within school who showcase the importance of literacy skills.



Paired Reading

We offer paired reading experiences for children from Y2 to Y6. This provides some of our reluctant and less confident readers with the opportunity to read alongside a supportive reading partner. The relationship is mutually beneficial, a partner may benefit from knowing they have helped someone else with their reading or a partner may benefit from being helped by a supportive peer.

This experience offers children the chance to have free choice over their reading material and to share preferences with like-minded people. The chat can be just as important as the reading itself!

A Reading Rich School

Children develop a love of reading when it is fun, engaging and all around them! At Swansfield Park, time and space for reading is very important. Each classroom has its own comfortable, inviting and well stocked reading area for children to enjoy.



At the heart of the school building, there is a purpose built library which is light, bright, modern and well stocked with books for all ages and tastes. Children from Year 3 upwards have the opportunity to train as a school librarian and play an active part in the running and maintenance of the library. Librarians encourage children to visit the area, choose authors and books to showcase through display, write book reviews, monitor and manage books in and out as well as offering story telling sessions.

Author visits are organised on a regular basis to inspire and enthuse children on their reading journey.

Each year, Swansfield Park celebrates World Book day with activities such as dressing up, read-a-thons and book swaps.

At Swansfield Park, we promote and encourage children to join in with events at the town library such as the Summer Reading Challenge, holiday activities and competitions.

