



Chesterton CE Primary School
Alchester Road
Chesterton
BICESTER
Oxon OX26 1UN

Telephone 01869 252498
Fax: 01869 244012
e-mail:
office.3082@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk
www.chesterton.oxon.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs C Wharton

Reading at Chesterton CE Primary School

Dear Parents

Reading is an important life skill and so here at school, the teaching of reading skills forms an integral part of each day. Reading is happening all the time, with specific teaching of skills in Literacy and phonics sessions, but also children are constantly practising these skills. They read instructions, maths language, information books, signs and label, on the computer and interactive whiteboard and the list goes on.

Teaching of early reading skills at the Foundation Stage

The teaching of reading begins with the learning of individual letter sounds and groups of letters. We call this the teaching of 'phonics'. In Maple class, children are taught these through a programme called 'Letters and Sounds'. They are also encouraged to recognise and remember those 'tricky words' that cannot be sounded out letter by letter e.g. 'the' or 'said'. These are sent home on flash cards to help them learn such words. Children are encouraged to draw upon their own experiences when sharing books and to use pictures to help them make sense of what they are reading.

Reading in Key Stage One

In Beech and Ash class, the teaching and development of reading skills is approached in a variety of different ways and it forms an important part of our Literacy work each morning. We spend allocated time each day doing our phonics work, reading with individuals and encouraging independent reading and book sharing. We aim that each child will read with an adult in school once a fortnight; however this is just one of many ways that reading is developed at this stage. We continue to deliver phonics teaching, with the children progressing towards learning new groups of letters, sounds and 'tricky words'. Through 'Shared Reading' of books, we model the reading process. We encourage the children to use their phonic skills as well as other clues to help them with an unfamiliar word, such as looking at the pictures or reading on to look for clues in the sentence. We take time to talk about the book and share ideas about its content. In Year 2, children are introduced to 'Group / Guided Reading' when they are ready. This involves a small group of children all reading the same book together, supported by an adult, who encourages the development of reading skills.

Reading at home in FS and KS 1

The individual reading practice that you do with your child at home is an important part of their learning process and so we encourage you to do this each night. Please make a note in your child's reading diary, so that we know how they have been getting on at home with their book.

We continue to give your child books from their colour set and will move them onto the next level when they are ready. If you feel that your child has been on a colour for some time and is doing really well, please speak to one of the members of staff. We will then assess your child and will move them on if we agree that their reading and understanding skills are ready.

Reading at Key Stage Two

In Apple and Oak class, reading continues to be taught and developed through 'Shared Reading' of texts in Literacy lessons. Each child also takes part in a 'Guided Reading' session for 20 minutes once a week. The children's independent reading starts to take a more prominent part of their reading practice as they make use of their well established skills for decoding words. The children will be reading from a variety of text types and they will be reading for learning in other areas of the curriculum.

We continue to encourage reading at home and ask that you find some time to read with your child, listen to them read and discuss the text. As well as their school reading book, it is beneficial to share and talk about other reading materials with your child, such as magazines, newspapers or websites.

If you would like further information and ideas for helping your child develop their reading skills at home, or you would like to know a bit more about how reading is taught in school, then you may like to visit the Oxford Owl website: <http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/Reading/>

You might be particularly interested in the section about phonics, where you can get a detailed look at, and listen to the sounds and letter groups that we teach. <http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/Question/Index/3>

If you have any concerns or questions about your child's reading, then please do talk to their class teacher, who will be able to help you.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Salter
Literacy Co-ordinator