

Reading for Enjoyment

At Beardall Fields Primary School we recognise that learning to read is not just a means to an end, children need to develop a love of reading as an escape, a way of learning about their world, to develop their own interests and to enrich their lives.

We celebrate World Book Day each year, invite story tellers/authors into school and many other ideas which aim to promote a love of books and reading. We want all our children to be skilled readers of a wide range of text types including fiction, non-fiction, electronic and paper texts.

How we teach reading

Learning to read is one of the most important things your child will learn at our school. We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we work hard to make sure children develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.

We start by teaching phonics in Reception using the highly successful ‘letters and sounds’ phonics programme. Children learn how to ‘read’ the sounds (phonemes) in words and how those sounds can be written down. This is essential for reading, but it also helps children learn to spell well.

The children also practise reading (and spelling) ‘tricky words’, such as ‘the’ ‘once,’ ‘said’.

Once children can blend sounds together to read words, they practise reading books that match the phonics and the ‘tricky words’ they know.

Teachers in all classes regularly read to the children too, so the children get to know and love all sorts of stories, poetry and information books. This helps to extend children’s vocabulary and their understanding of what they have read or heard, as well as supporting their writing.

While children are at the early stages of learning to read, we believe that it is vital to read with children individually. Therefore all children who are reading at level 26 (lime band) or below will be read individually at least once a week, as well as another read where possible with another adult within school.

All of our children also receive a guided reading session each week. These sessions allow the teacher to explore or re-visit a text with the children, developing key skills as well as taking part in discussion; sharing ideas, making predictions and exploring new vocabulary.

What can parents/carers do to help?

Within the first two weeks of your child starting Reception, you will be invited to a meeting so that we can explain how we teach reading and show you the resources we use. During the meeting, there are lots of suggestions on how you can help your child to read. Your support really does get your child off to a great start!

You can help your child to sound out the letters in words and then to ‘blend’ the sounds together to make a whole word. Try not to refer to the letters by their names. Help your child to focus on the sounds (phonemes.)

If your child brings home a book they seem to know well, please encourage them to tell you the story out loud; ask them questions about things that happen or what they think about some of the characters or events within the story.

Make reading fun! Remember to keep reading to your child. They will come across far more adventurous words when you read or tell them stories than they will in their early reading books. You will be helping them to explore new words and vocabulary as well as understanding the meaning of different stories. It will also encourage them to love books and want to read more!

Book Levels

We have a wide range of books from a lot of different reading schemes. When children first start to learn to read it is essential that they explore books which they can begin to read easily but which have the right amount of challenge, to move on their learning.

Our books follow a number system which are supported by colour bands. Each reading book has a visible number on the front of the book and where appropriate a coloured sticker on the spine.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
pink	pink	red	red	red	yellow	yellow	yellow	blue	blue	blue	green	green	green	orange	orange	teal	teal	purple	purple	gold	gold	white	white	green	green	brown	grey	blue	burgundy	black

- At the end of Reception, the expectation is that our children will be reading level 6 Yellow band
- At the end of Year 1, the expectation is that our children will be reading level 15-16 orange band
- At the end of Year 2, the expectation is that our children will be reading level 21-22 gold band
- At the end of year 4, the expectation is that our children will to be reading level 27 brown band
- At the end of year 6, we hope our children will be reading level 30-31 burgundy or black band

Some children will need more support with their reading than others, and will need to take smaller steps towards success.

Some may be slower to start initially, especially when we consider that many of our children in Reception are just 4 years old when they start school! In those early years, those few months really can make a difference. That also applies to those children who do well and are exceeding in their reading, these children will be given the right level of support and guidance to support their development

If you have any questions about how books are levelled, please ask your child's class teacher or see Mrs Ottley-Whiles the English lead within our school, who will be pleased to explain the system further to you.

We aim to change your child's reading book weekly if they have read both at school and at home. However, please feel free to come in and change your child's book if you feel they have read and explored it with you several times. Please do not change book levels though as this can become confusing for all involved.

Additional Support

For children who are finding it more difficult to learn to read, we offer many layers of support.

Miss Mathews, our 'Reading Recovery' teacher offers individual daily lessons for some children.

We also have an army of highly trained TAs who run specific reading and phonics intervention programmes across the school.

We also have a literacy volunteer who visits our school on a weekly basis to read with children in KS2 and many parents/carers and volunteers who give up their time to come and read in school. If this is something you would like to offer, please speak to your child's class teacher.