

## Reading and phonics policy

At Wybunbury Delves, we actively promote a love of reading and reading for pleasure is at the heart of our reading policy. Our learning is holistically planned around quality texts. We aim to enable our children to read fluently, accurately and with understanding and confidence, whilst fostering an interest in words and their meanings, gaining an appreciation of books from a variety of genres. We encourage our children to read with enjoyment, accessing a variety of fiction and non-fiction books, and to take their books home to share with their parents to support their reading progress in school. Throughout the year, events are planned to promote reading for pleasure in the school community. These events include dress up days linked to authors, activities linked to World Book Day, where both children and staff dress up as book characters, visits to Nantwich library, author visits and the Summer Reading Challenge book award.

## The Teaching of Phonics

Learning to read is the most important thing your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible. We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we put our efforts into making sure they develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read. At Wybunbury Delves, we use the Read Write Inc phonics programme. Read Write Inc (RWI) is a tried and tested, highly successful phonics programme for children aged 4 to 7 who are learning to read and write. It teaches children how to both decode and understand written language to become confident and enthusiastic readers and writers. This is achieved by a dynamic approach to teaching phonics that is consistent across the school using the Read, Write Inc phonics resources and reading books. The phonics lessons include a speed sound lesson and a shared read. In addition, children take reading books home to further practise skills learnt at school. Children on the RWI phonics programme will take home a RWI decodable ‘book bag’ matched to their reading ability and a sharing story book to be enjoyed and shared at home. Reading levels are monitored by the class teacher and the Reading Leader to ensure that children are reading books of an appropriate level, only containing sounds they have learnt. Once a child has finished reading their allocated reading book, an adult from home needs to sign their child’s reading record book to confirm that the book has been read. They are asked to read each book three times to focus on accuracy, fluency and comprehension. Children are grouped according to their ability across EYFS and KS1 (and any children assessed as still needing to access phonics on KS2) to ensure that teaching is suited to their level. Phonics takes place on a daily basis. Please see our parent guide to RWI on the reading page of our school website for more information.

### **Assessments**

Assessments take place every six weeks. They are completed by the reading leader with the children on a 1:1 basis. Any children who are not on track will be picked up on their assessment and will be given fast track tutoring and pinny time. Children in reception will have their first assessment a week before Autumn half term break which will give them enough time to settle into school routines. Reception children will only start to take books home where they can recognize 25 single letter sounds and are able to blend orally. Until reception children can do this, they will be given story books to share with their adults. The reading leader can also assess children whilst supporting/observing groups if children are making accelerated progress. After children have completed the Read Write Inc programme, children begin the Collins Big Cat reading scheme.

### **Fast track tutoring**

The lowest 20% of children in a class will receive fast track tutoring to help them make accelerated progress. The fast track tutoring will be facilitated by a TA trained in phonics. The tutoring will happen for 10 minutes a day, five times a week. From the assessment, the tutor will be able to identify what sounds or part of phonics the children are struggling on and will base the sessions on this.

## **What is fresh start?**

The fresh start programme is suitable for years 5 and 6 children. We teach it in small groups to any children that are struggling with their reading and phonics knowledge. Fresh Start is a learn to read programme that will teach pupils to read quickly. Fresh Start is a learn to read programme that will teach pupils to read quickly. It is a fast-paced, systematic phonics programme. Once they can read, they will be able to access learning in all of their lessons. They will also be able to read to learn independently for the rest of their lives.

## **How does Fresh start work?**

Every day, we teach pupils to read new letter-sounds and revise previously taught sounds. We teach them to read and spell words containing these letter-sounds. They read lively, age-appropriate texts that are closely matched to their increasing phonic knowledge. We also teach pupils to spell and to punctuate their writing, using activities linked to their reading.

## **The care of books**

If a book is lost or damaged, a letter will be sent home requesting that the child's parents or carers make a contribution (£5) towards the cost of replacing the book. School reading scheme books (both RWI and Collins Big Cat) are placed inside a plastic zip wallet, which is then placed inside a book bag. All teaching staff encourage children to treat books with care and respect.

## **Equal Opportunities and SEN**

In line with our Inclusion policies, Wybunbury Delves believes all children are entitled to high quality teaching and learning, with regard to reading and we embrace the philosophy of inclusion. All pupils with special educational needs will follow the same educational curriculum as their peers, differentiated where necessary to meet their individual needs. When selecting a phonetically decodable book for guided reading, teachers must ensure that it consolidates the teaching of recently taught sounds and 'red' words. Children have been assessed upon returning to school in September 2020 and interventions have been put in place for children with gaps in their reading or who have been identified to benefit from such a programme. Children who are making slow progress with their reading will receive extra support, either in the form of one to one tutoring or extra reading sessions. Additional resources to support children who are struggling to make progress with their reading include the Read Write Inc Fast track tutoring programme. These are to be used as directed by the SENCO/Reading Leader.

Last reviewed by phonics leader- Miss Haynes 25.11.24