

How we teach Reading at Church Cowley

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Our aim is that children become fluent readers and develop a passion and enjoyment for reading.

Phonics

From Nursery to Year 2 children are taught to read using skills developed through phonics lessons. At Church Cowley we teach phonics through 'Letters and Sounds' which teaches children to segment and blend words for reading. All children in EYFS-KS1 have a daily phonics session which follows the systematic approach from 'Letters and Sounds'. Additionally children are taught to read 'tricky' or sight words.

Guided Reading

At CCSJ, Guided Reading is taught the same way throughout the whole school using a carousel of skills. All children in the classroom work on the same high level text within a 5-day round robin. Activity one involves the children working in a Guided Group with the class teacher, where they verbally answer questions using retrieval and inference techniques. Activity two sees the group complete an independent task based on the text. This could involve comprehension questions or other tasks such as drawing a map from a description or writing a letter to a character in the book. To promote a richer dialogue, the third activity is a 'book club' where the children discuss the text. One child becomes the 'teacher' and leads the conversation about characters or the plot. The fourth group listen to a discrete audio book using headsets and the final group work on their handwriting with a teaching assistant. The aim is for all children to access rich texts to improve both reading skills and vocabulary which will consequently impact writing.

Sharing reading

All classes in our school have a 'class book' that their teacher reads to them at the end of every school day. For all classes this is a chapter book that most children will not be able to read independently. This is an opportunity for all children to listen and to engage in a more challenging text and to develop a love of stories.

Independent reading

All children from EYFS- Year 3 will have a book, selected from the appropriate stage of the Oxford Reading Tree scheme, to read at school and to take home to read. The books the children bring home will be a book that they can read; this is an opportunity for children to read with parents and practice at home. They will be reading a more challenging book in class with the teacher during guided reading.

Library sessions

All children in the school have a weekly library session with our school librarian. These involve a whole class reading session and an opportunity to choose a book to take home and independent reading on our comfy beanbags! The library is also open every day after school so that all children can visit the library with their parents.

