

Irthington Village School English Curriculum Overview

Reading

Our aim is that children become independent readers for pleasure, information and instruction. We have a structured reading programme from Nursery to Year 6. Pupils are given the opportunity to read every day as individuals, in-groups and in whole class sessions. Since reading is not just about recognising words, the children develop skills associated with oral and written comprehension, expressive phrases and vocabulary, story and character development and using texts as a source of information. There is a wide range of material available - fiction, non-fiction, information, poetry, etc. Children will bring home a reading book every day. We strongly advise parents to sit and read with their child as regularly as possible and to be partners in developing their child's skill as a reader. Staff are happy to discuss this with parents at any time.

Children are given the opportunity to read a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry books throughout their time at Irthington.

EYFS

Our main approach to teaching reading is through synthetic phonics, which introduces the children to individual letter sounds before moving on to blends and digraphs. We use the Letters and Sounds scheme which incorporates a range of motivational and multi-sensory strategies such as singing songs, performing actions for each of the 42 letter sounds, listening to short stories and looking at flash cards with pictures.

There are five skills taught within Letters and Sounds:

1. Learning the letter sounds
2. Learning letter formation
3. Blending
4. Identifying the sounds in words (Segmenting)
5. Tricky words

Children are encouraged to take books home to share with adults, and individual reading books are given by the class teacher when they feel the child is ready.

Year 1

Throughout Year 1 we continue to use the Letters and Sounds scheme to further support children with their reading. We also aim to hear children read several times each week. To develop comprehension skills we encourage children to talk about the books they are reading and use the context and picture cues and a range of decoding skills in addition to their use of phonics. Children are given literacy based activities to support and extend their reading. Reading books are changed daily.

Year 2 and 3

Phonics and word reading activities continue throughout Year 2 and 3. Children work their way through the reading scheme books at a pace appropriate to their individual reading ability. As the children progress onto more challenging books they may need to keep them for several days. We aim to hear children read at least twice each week.

Year 4 - 6

Children continue to work their way through the reading scheme. As children complete the books in the reading scheme they will move on to **Free Readers**, which are non-scheme books appropriate for the child's reading level and ability. Children read individually to an adult at least once a week. Children also take part in one session of Guided Reading per week in a group of children with similar reading abilities using collections of age appropriate children's novels, non-fiction and play scripts. This promotes discussion and helps to further develop comprehension and inference skills.