

Reading at Willow Bank Infant School

Reading is a fundamental skill that children need to be equipped with to fulfil our values.

At Willow Bank Infant School we follow a book banding system that allows children to progress through the bands as their knowledge, skills and understanding also progresses, the book bands also compliment a range of interests and develops a love of reading. We follow the Oxford Reading Tree (ORT) scheme for reading and have supplemented the basic ORT book bands with additional add-ons to include Project X, Tree tops and Dandelion Readers. The children find the books bright and fresh, and the stories are about events that they can relate to.

At Willow Bank Infant School we progress in stages from Reception through to Year 2, with the children progressing through the book bands at their own pace. Once a child is fluently reading and can comprehensively comprehend what they are reading they can become a 'free reader' where they are able to choose their own books at home or from the school library.

The different readers are used for home readers, in class guided reading and reading interventions. The book bands children will be reading at home provides the child with time to practice new reading skills; phonics, understanding, decoding, inference etc.

Guided Reading in school is where reading and comprehension skills are taught. Guided reading is a regular activity where the children can experience supported and guided reading and a variety of activities around the book to enhance their understanding and love for reading. Our guided reading books follow the ORT scheme but are also supplemented with additional books to add greater depth and breadth to the range of genres and styles our children are familiar with.

During Guided reading sessions teachers will ensure that the children have a clear and concise learning objective that builds on their prior reading experiences. SPAG opportunities will be built in to different guided reading activities so that children can learn to recognise the patterns and rules and get a gauge for when it is natural.

As a child progresses in their reading the knowledge, skills and understanding in guided reading will develop from word blending and decoding, using sight words, pictorial clues to inference and deduction skills and forming their own preferences to texts by identifying the effect it has on the reader.

Reading for enjoyment is important at Willow Bank Infant School and helps us to further embed our values as we have a well-stocked, comprehensive library.

Reading is a life-long skill and at Willow Bank Infant School we value the importance of reading across the whole curriculum. In our curriculum delivery we will ensure that a range of books are shared with the children through all subjects. All adults will ensure reading is modelled in an enthusiastic and appropriate way. We ensure that pupils and adults alike have the opportunity to read for pleasure and this is modelled.