



## Keelman's Way School approach to the teaching of reading.

**“Learning to read is one of the most challenging undertakings that a person commits to during their lifetime ..... For some people the challenge of learning to read is greater than for others. It requires specialist support in learning to recognise works and methods that are expertly adapted to their specific needs”**

*Christopher Such*

### Teaching reading

#### In Keelman's Way

- Attention is given to the development of children's speaking and listening skills; and its position within a broad and rich language curriculum
- Teaching reading takes full account of developing the **four independent strands of literacy** – speaking, listening, reading and writing.
- Effective teaching of phonics is embedded within a **language rich environment** that can be adapted to any activity, sensory props, symbols, makaton, and initial sound recognition.
- There is high quality, systematic phonic teaching as well as generic reading and decoding skills across the curriculum.

The key aim of any effective reading and phonics programme is

- to enlarge pupils' repertoire of known words.
- Encourage through good listening and engaging in everyday conversation to develop day-to-day vocabulary.
- Develop the ability to decode new words to support independent reading

High quality phonics programmes and approaches are used presently in school.

**Twinkl**, a DFE approved resource, provides a clear framework for the teaching of phonics

The teaching sequence is followed at a pace that supports the level of the learners

Resources provide a collaborative approach using a stimulating bank of resources and enhances pupils' reading skills.

These resources and its approach provide fun and engaging activities that we use with our students to progress through each stage. It reliably meets the necessary requirements for all children to meet the National curriculum aims and objectives for literacy and **phonics**. Twinkl resources and access to phonics provide a flexible approach and provide the more able pupils skills to decode following a sequenced programme in their access to phonics. Click here to see a parents guide to the use of Twinkl phonics. <https://youtu.be/ZkrC6c-RYJ>

Staff are aware of the pupils' stage of development in phonics. The majority of pupils are emergent or developing learners, and a small group are functional users.

Most able pupils are tracked and have sufficient skills to be entered for Functional Literacy skills examinations in Key stage 5.

Pupils at Keelman's Way School will develop reading skills at very individual levels and this must be considered when teaching in **whole class, small groups and for individual reading sessions**. Pupils may not progress at the same rate as their peers and this must be recorded and considered when moving through the key stages. Teachers must be aware of pupil's levels and address them in a 'best fit' approach when dealing with the whole class. The use of objects of reference, sensory stories, photographs, PECs symbols and Makaton signs support this to ensure all pupils have **a range of reading strategies**.

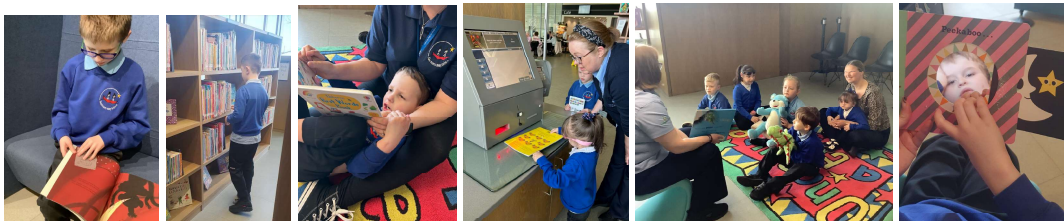
Our 'Access to phonics' scheme offers all staff detailed advice on how to provide a curriculum for our readers with complex needs.

We know our pupils benefit from a range of strategies that take their needs into account.

Pupils experience includes

- Designated reading areas in class
- Pupils hear adults model reading from a wide range of texts
- School and public library settings
- Individual supported reading sessions
- The opportunity to access books alone
- Small groups reading
- Listen to and enjoying stories
- ICT support for reading
- Rhino reader is our main reading scheme for younger pupils
- Dockside is our main reading scheme for older pupils
- Cross curricular reading opportunities.
- Symbols around school and off site activities that involve following signs.
- Independent readers in our more able cohorts have access to texts from recognised authors and a variety of genres.

For the love of reading-



Hebburn library

We encourage a love of reading by holding book themed days and events both as individual classes and across the whole school eg. World Book Day. DEAR time (drop everything and read) which engages the children with reading at different points of the day. We have strong links with Hebburn library and all children are encouraged to participate in the summer reading challenge.

Our well-stocked school library promotes authors and a range of reading material to appeal to all pupils. Children's suggestions for new books are encouraged and purchased.



World Book day 2023

### Classroom environment

Some of our colourful literacy displays in school.



Summer 2023

The full literacy policy for school is published on the school website.