

READING FOR PLEASURE

Graham James Primary Academy is a Reading School

At Graham James we recognise that reading for pleasure gives children a better understanding of the world as well as a lifelong love for reading. Here at Graham James, we aim to develop positive attitudes towards reading and foster a love of books through the school's enthusiastic reading culture. As a school we take specific action to ensure we are equipping pupils with the skills to become readers and to ensure reading is promoted as a high-value activity.

Teaching the Reading Curriculum

Our data analysis identifies pupils who struggle in reading, and then specific interventions are put in place. These are either small teaching groups in addition to classroom provision or specific strategies used within whole class teaching to help accelerate progress. Pupil progress is discussed and reviewed regularly during weekly Middle Leader meetings and half-termly at staff meetings. Class teachers and Middle Leaders judge the impact of interventions, and groupings are amended or teaching support redeployed according to need. We acknowledge that reading enjoyment and reading achievement are interdependent, so identification of need is key to ensuring all our pupils can participate fully in the reading curriculum.

Active comprehension strategies are taught from Year 1 to Year 6 within guided reading sessions. National Curriculum statements are used to assess pupils in reading with staff making judgements using their understanding of the competencies which underpin each statement to identify gaps in pupils' skills and knowledge.

Vocabulary development is recognised as a priority, so teachers use all available opportunities to clarify and extend pupils' understanding of new words. Guided reading sessions are a prime opportunity to do this but new subject vocabulary is also introduced in English, science, maths and topic lessons. In the early years, pupils' vocabulary extension is planned for within focus activities.

We recognise the need to increase pupils' reading stamina and their independence, so pupils are given daily opportunities to read alone. They learn to make choices about what to read using the selection of books in class and in the library, and are given opportunities to talk about preferences during one-to-one reading sessions with teachers, teaching assistants, adult helpers or reading volunteers. New books are promoted by the teacher as well as pupils, sharing their favourite stories and non-fiction preferences.

Children across the school are taught creatively through a book-based topic every term. This ensures children are enthused by reading and through a shared class book, opportunities for cross-curricula links can be made. This helps to embed skills and deepen knowledge by making all aspects of learning more relevant. Shared reading allows children to discuss aspects of the book with their peers and become more aware of the author's choice of language and purpose. It also allows children the opportunity to enjoy a book that they wouldn't readily choose or be able to access without support.

Celebrating Reading

Reading is promoted around the school through exciting wall displays, allowing the rest of the school to enjoy and be inspired by their peers' class work. These are changed each term to coincide with each book being read in class.

Classes visit the local library regularly and members of the library visit to share new and exciting stories with the children. This encourages children to join the library as well as promoting good habits outside school time. This year there has been a marked increase in the number of pupils taking part in the Summer Reading Challenge at our local library which shows a growing love of reading.

This year, as part of World Book Day, Graham James are hosting a World Book Week, where the entire week will be full of exciting activities and games related to books. We are even dressing-up as our favourite book characters.

At Graham James, the children don't just read because they have to, they read because they love to!