



What does reading currently look like in school?



Our Fiction Library

This is the first of our library areas to be completed in school. A *huge* transformation from a previously disused 'dumping ground'.

Our library comprises of:

- A wall mural that has been designed by our pupils. Each class chose their favourite book characters to be displayed on the wall.
- Comfy seating choices.
- A wide-range of texts. Our pupils told us which books they would like to see in their library.
- A brand new reading scheme.
- Magazines and comics.



Each class has been timetabled in to use this space on a weekly basis. Children can choose to take reading books from the reading areas in their class, or choose one from our library area.

Teachers monitor your child's reading to ensure they are choosing texts appropriate for their age and stage of development. We want pupils to choose suitably challenging texts - not too easy, not too tricky. We have a new reading scheme in school which the children can follow, moving through the colours as they progress with their reading.



Book-banded reading books

In the library area, we have a new reading scheme available to children. Teachers use the book banded books to ensure children are reading books with a suitable level of challenge (90% difficulty). The reading scheme is broken down into colours which range from turquoise to sapphire. Each colour on the reading scheme has a wide-range of texts so that all children are



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able to find a text which enthuses and engages them, ranging from fiction to non-fiction. Children can progress through the reading colours when their teacher feels they are ready. I have attached a document outlining the reading colours our pupils have access to as well as the corresponding reading age for each colour.

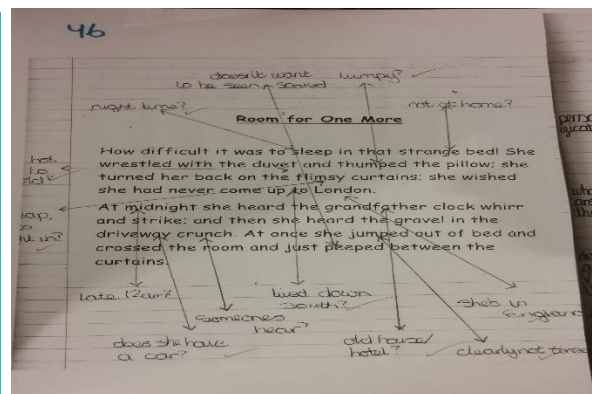
PM Benchmarking

PM Benchmarking is a reading assessment resource we use to monitor children's reading fluency and comprehension to ensure children are reading books appropriate for their ability. PM Benchmarking has told us that many of our children have good reading fluency (the ability to read the words on a page) but poor levels of comprehension (understanding what they have read).

For this reason, when hearing your child read at home, it is really important questions are asked to monitor children's understanding of what they have read. I have attached a 'parent guide' to this document for some top tips and useful questions.

Guided Reading

All classes hold daily Guided Reading sessions. This is where children explore the deeper meaning behind the texts they are reading. Our approach to guided reading is called 'In the moment of reading...!' and this approach focuses on what the child is thinking every step of their reading journey. In the moment of reading forces the children to read slowly and explore the meaning behind words and sentences. Below is an example of the ITMR technique in action.



For the rest of the week, children will focus on a specific area of comprehension - literal, inferential and deductive. The purpose is to prepare children for the types of questions they will face as they move through the school. All children, regardless of year group, use the same approach to guided reading, however the complexity of the text and questions vary.



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Reading Planets

All children across school have access to Reading Planets - an online platform with a wide-range of texts. This is to supplement the children's reading at home. If you need reminding of your child's login, please contact your child's teacher.

Reading Plus (Years 5 & 6)

Reading Plus is an adaptive literacy program that develops the fluency, comprehension, and motivation students need to be successful readers. This program is used in upper KS2 because the children need to have a good grasp of the foundational skills of reading such as phonics and phonemic awareness. Reading Plus is used daily for all pupils in Y5/6, with the software providing specific targeted data on each child on a daily basis. Whilst the use of Reading Plus at Monkton is still in its infancy, data shows that it has been effective improving children's reading stamina, fluency and comprehension.

Plans for the future

The Hub

Now that our fiction library has reached completion, work is now underway to develop a non-fiction, research area in the upper school named 'The Hub'. This area will be filled with non-fiction, fact-based texts which the children can use to research and find things out. Within this area there will also be ICT software such as iPads and Chromebooks so children can take responsibility for leading their own learning. We hope this area will be completed by the end of the summer term.

Reading Records

We are awaiting the delivery of new 'Reading Records' for our pupils. Reading Records will be used as a home-school communication tool to monitor and communicate messages regarding your child's reading.





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Parent Workshops

Some of you may remember back in the 'good old days' (pre-Covid19), we held regular parent workshops. Parent workshops were a chance for parents/carers to come into school and find out a little bit more about what a typical day or lesson looks like for your child. We have held parent workshops on many different areas of school life, with 'reading' being one of them. We hope that as restrictions continue to be eased, we may soon be in a position to invite parents and carers into school in some capacity to resume these workshops. In the meantime, Miss Sheriff is proposing a virtual parent workshop on the development of reading in which she will share some strategies you could use at home with your child. Stay tuned for more on that.

What you told us?

As a result of the parent questionnaire we put out, here were some of the things you said you would like to see from us:

- Recognition of children's reading - certificates in assembly
- Wider range of texts
- Return of parent workshops
- Knowledge of where children are with their reading - what does their colour reading book mean?

Hopefully you can see that we have already factored in some of the suggestions you shared with us. Please know that we really do value your feedback and we will be looking at ways we can develop further.

If you have any questions regarding reading at school, please don't hesitate to contact Miss Sheriff (English Lead) directly - vsheriff@monktonacademy.co.uk

Many thanks.