



Foundations for Reading

The foundation skills for reading form a large part of our English curriculum for many of our pupils. We provide an engaging, motivating and meaningful English curriculum, with a huge focus on enjoyment of stories, communication and engagement.

Communication

Communication is a key part of the curriculum, especially in pathways one and two. Symbol use and functional pictorial recognition are used consistently across departments, and can support pupils to 'read' images and structure sentences. We use a range of bespoke communication aids and tools, such as PECS and visual core-boards to support pupils with their functional communication, independence for learning and foundations for reading. Supporting pupils to recognise and use visuals functionally, and to communicate needs and wants are central to all teaching at this level.

Attention and Engagement

Attention and engagement are also key prerequisites to reading which underpin all teaching in pathways one and two. Pupils take part in a multi-sensory, practical and exciting curriculum which promotes curiosity, motivation and interest. Approaches such as Attention Autism and the Teacch Model are used across the school to promote enjoyment of and independence with learning.

Sharing of Stories

Pupils at the 'foundations for reading' stage have an exciting English curriculum with a range of high quality stories, poems and non-fiction texts. A huge emphasis is placed on promoting engagement with stories and poems and immersing pupils into the world of fiction. In pathways one and two, stories are brought to life in creative and exciting ways, using sensory stories and multi-sensory props and resources. Pupils are also read to every day, which allows them to enjoy the awe and wonder of stories and promotes positive experiences with reading.

Foundations for Reading - Sounds

Pupils at this stage will be supported to identify a range of different sounds that they may hear in the environment or the community.

These will include:

- Environmental sounds
- Instrumental sounds
- Nursery rhymes
- Voice sounds of familiar people