



Guidance for Parents & Carers

Part 1





"The whole world opened to me when I learned to read"

Mary McLeod Bethune

Welcome to Evelyn Street Primary school

Reading is an essential life skill and a gateway to learning. Books unlock the world around us. They allow us to visit the fantastic world of stories or immerse us into a topic or theme of interest.

At Evelyn Street Primary

At Evelyn Street Primary we want children to become enthusiastic, competent and fluent readers. Reading should be enjoyable and allow children to develop their vocabulary and imagination. As a school we aim to provide both a rich reading environment and curriculum, with high quality reading experiences that will foster and promote a lifelong love for reading.

Nursery and Reception

The reading journey at Evelyn Street Primary starts as soon as a child joins our nursery class. In nursery children will experience a reading environment with books in all areas of learning. Children will be introduced to stories and information through shared reading with skilled adults. Shared reading provides opportunities for children to listen to and share texts with adults that they would not be able to read independently.

Sharing, listening and experiencing quality texts allows children to develop and expand their understanding of how books and stories work and promotes their vocabulary development.

The reading journey continues in Reception, where children continue to expand their knowledge of books, stories and reading. Adults model reading behaviours

and children are given opportunities to practise and apply these reading skills independently with carefully selected books matched to their developing abilities.

Phonics

To support our children on their reading journey Evelyn Street Primary have a systematic approach to teaching **phonics**, which is the first step in learning how to read for children. We use "**Read, Write Inc.**" which provides a systematic and rigorous approach to the teaching of phonics, sight words, decoding, blending and segmenting skills.

Children are taught that individual letters and groups of letters make sounds and that these can be identified and blended together to make words, which can then be read in books.

Phonics is taught explicitly and on a daily basis in whole class sessions and smaller group sessions.

Phonics is embedded in all areas of the curriculum and children experience regular, planned opportunities to practise and develop their phonic abilities.

In Nursery children develop their speaking and listening skills and become aware of the sounds around them. These sessions prepare them to begin developing sound and letter knowledge. In Reception children further build their knowledge of sounds and the letters that make these sounds. With their growing phonic abilities the children in Reception are introduced to decodable books from Read, Write, Inc. Decodable means that the words in the books can be segmented into sounds and then blended to make words. These are closely matched to the sounds that children are learning. Being able to read a decodable book means that children feel successful right from the beginning of their reading journey.

Key Stage One - Year 1 and Year 2

Key Stage 1 builds on the outstanding foundations for reading which the children have gained in their Nursery and Reception classes. In Year One, Phonics is still taught daily and the children consolidate their phonic knowledge and practise their decoding. They are introduced to more complex sounds and alternative sounds that can be created by the same letters that they have already used, for example ay in the word play can also be in words spelt a different way, for example ai in snail. These letters make the same sound but are spelt differently. Recognising and being able to use these sounds allow children to read a wider range of words and texts. Children in year one undertake the government phonics screening test to assess their knowledge and application of phonics. In Year two if children still need some help with phonics, they will participate in small groups to continue their phonic journey.

Children in KS2 who may still find phonics challenging will be supported by daily 1:1 sessions to help them acquire their decoding and segmenting skills.

Guided Reading

Children in Key Stage One participate in guided reading sessions. This reading is in small targeted groups where the teacher or teaching assistant provides precise teaching and guidance. The books and texts used are carefully selected to offer challenge and children are taught new skills and strategies that will expand their reading skills. Guided reading is introduced in Year one when children are secure with their phonic knowledge and have experienced success with segmenting and blending skills using decodable books. Guided reading continues in Year two.

Key Stage One children are given lots of opportunities to read and also to listen to stories, information texts and poetry being shared, in Key Stage one this may include story times, which allows adults to ask and answer questions about texts and develop children's understanding of books. Comprehension (understanding what has been read) is another important aspect of reading and can be developed this way.

Key Stage Two - Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6

Key Stage two further enriches children's reading skills and provides a host of learning opportunities to expand children's reading abilities.

All classes in Key Stage two participate in **guided reading** sessions throughout the week. Teachers use their knowledge of the reading needs of the children and use books or extracts of texts that offer both challenge and teaching points to expand skills.

Comprehension skills of predicting, summarising, clarifying, understanding new vocabulary predicting, inferring and deducing are also worked upon through reading sessions.

These skills allow children to fully understand the texts that they read. They can understand the obvious information in books, but with good skills can discover the hidden meanings and have a deeper understanding of the content of the books that they read. Children are encouraged to ask and answer questions to fully understand what they have read or heard.

During guided reading sessions in both Key stage one and Key stage two, selected groups will be working with the teachers and teaching assistants. During this time children not working with an adult will be undertaking reading activities independently that have been carefully planned and explained by the teacher. These will provide opportunities for independent learning, which will let children, practise their fluency and accuracy, as well as expression and pace and their understanding

of punctuation in texts. Children can refine their own reading skills

Class Novels

Everyone at Evelyn Street Primary is a reader, including the adults. Staff have their own favourite texts which they enjoy sharing and reading to the children. Other books and novels which are read to children on a regular basis are selected to follow the children's interests or chosen from the reading spine that we have in school for each class. The reading spine includes books recommended for classes and offers a wide variety of different types of texts. In this way we give the children an experience of good quality texts, throughout their time at our school.

Reading whole class books and novels gives children the opportunity to listen to reading by adults and be introduced to texts that may be beyond what they are able to read independently. It encourages them to listen carefully and absorb the vocabulary and phrasings used by the authors and use the information to create images and ideas.

The main purpose is to become immersed in the books, enjoy them and encourage the need to be an avid reader.

School Library

At Evelyn Street Primary we are fortunate to have a well-stocked school library with a wide range of books, including fiction, poetry and non-fiction. We also have collections of books by the same author, so children can read books by their preferred authors. The library is also available for children to work in when undertaking reading tasks and activities.

Reading and Writing

Reading has strong links with writing. This is another opportunity for children in all year groups to engage with carefully selected books and explore them in writing. They develop a deep understanding of the books read and the authors who have written them. They acquire knowledge about how authors write and the tools they use to create excellent books to read. Children are encouraged to use this knowledge to develop and extend their own writing skills.

Assessment

Staff are knowledgeable about the reading curriculum and when they listen to children read in a variety of situations or they read to the class, they are evaluating and assessing the reading skills of the children. These observations inform teachers planning and the decisions they make about the next steps in the reading journey of the children in their class.

More formal assessments, including assessing phonic knowledge and

comprehension skills, which happen throughout the school year on a regular basis, are undertaken by the children to ensure that staff know what a child can and cannot do in regards to reading. The information from these assessments is used to ensure that children are making progress and if interventions are required to assist with the development of reading skills. At Evelyn Street Primary we want to equip all children with the skills to help them to fully access the curriculum.

Everyone an Individual

At Evelyn Street Primary we appreciate that every child is an individual and we understand that all children have specific and personal needs, if children need extra support with their reading journey, staff are well equipped to identify needs and address them. Children may be given extra individual reading with an adult to further help them consolidate reading skills.

Reading at home

We encourage children to practise and further develop their skills at home. Children will bring home books regularly. In nursery children will bring home a library book to share with parents and carers.

Children in Reception and Year One will bring home a decodable book that will reinforce their segmenting and blending skills allowing them to read words in the texts. They will also bring home a book from the school library or their class library, which has been selected to read for pleasure. Children may want to browse and read it independently or they may want to share with an adult and have the adult read the book to them. From Year two to Year six, children will also bring home a book to read for pleasure, as well as a book matched to their reading abilities from guided reading texts.

Communication between school and parents/carers is very important and children will have a reading planner which will accompany the books that they bring home. This planner allow us to communicate effectively about your child's reading and also allow parents/carers to communicate with school.

At Evelyn Street Primary we hope that the opportunities provided at school will equip every child with the skills of a competent reader and promote lifelong readers, who enjoy reading and use their skills to open doors of learning in the wider world.