

## Our Approach to the Teaching of Early Reading and Phonics

At Sandown Primary School we strive to ensure that every child becomes a successful reader and leaves school having developed a lifelong love of books and reading. Reading is the most significant factor to enable children to access all areas of the curriculum.

Reading is taught using a range of methods:

- Daily guided reading sessions where children work in small groups of similar ability. The children read and respond to a text, often supported by the class teacher or teaching assistant. They may also carry out other reading related tasks during their guided reading sessions, such as listening to and enjoying stories at the listening stations, sharing and responding to books with others or follow-up work on a text already read with the teacher.
- Daily phonics sessions for the children in Reception and KS 1 and for those that require it at KS2. We teach children how the alphabet works and how we use our letter knowledge to put sounds together to make words in order to read them (blending) and how to break words into their separate sounds in order to write them (segmenting). This is taught through what we refer to as a 'structured synthetic phonics programme'. At Sandown this is based upon the 'Letters and Sounds' scheme and Phonics Play programme. All children up to Year 2 receive a **daily** phonics session as well as older children that still require this. Phonics activities are multi-sensory and linked in with spelling and handwriting where possible. Teachers use termly assessments in order to group children according to their phonics needs across each Key Stage. Whilst children are taught to use phonics as their first approach to reading, they are also taught high frequency words which don't follow the phonics rules. If you would like to learn more about the DfES (2008) 'Letters and Sounds Programme' please view the publication at: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/letters-and-sounds](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letters-and-sounds)
- Children are encouraged to read for pleasure. Teachers have created a designated reading area in each of their classrooms containing a range of books and a comfortable space to sit and read. We provide times where children can all read together.
- We have a wonderful school library filled with books to appeal to all ages, interests and covering all genres. All the classes have a weekly library slot when they can read individually or share books with friends, as well as, select new books to borrow and keep in the classroom. When the children are ready they also have the opportunity to choose and take home books from the school library.
- Teachers provide frequent opportunities to read aloud to the children and share books and stories to support with all areas of the curriculum. Through this the children will develop their language acquisition, imaginative thinking, knowledge and the pure love of reading.

### Daily reading at home

A high importance is placed on children reading every day at home. Books are taken home so that parents can help by listening to and reading with their children. This is an expectation as children who read regularly at home are more likely to become independent and successful readers.

The children have a home/school learning book which is sent home and should be signed daily either by the parent/carer or by the child themselves. All our early reading books are colour banded, starting with lilac, where children enjoy 'reading the pictures' to gain meaning right the way through to lime and beyond. Please see the attached table to see the progression in the colour book bands so you can see where your child is on the reading ladder! The children move their way through the book colour bands which become progressively more challenging with new vocabulary being introduced, longer texts, different genres and more complex plots. Children choose their own reading book from the colour band which their teacher has decided is the right reading level for them.

We have a wide range of books from a variety of different reading schemes. When children are ready they will be supported to select non-scheme books from our school library to read at home. Teachers are always happy to discuss how you feel your child is progressing with their reading at home and whether you feel the colour book band they are on is right for them. We want the children to feel successful and motivated when reading at home and at school.

### The Universal Colour Book Bands

<u>Lime</u>
<u>White</u>
<u>Gold</u>
<u>Purple</u>
<u>Turquoise</u>
<u>Orange</u>
<u>Green</u>
<u>Blue</u>



Children start here!