

READING

We give reading high priority at London Meed. Pupils are encouraged to become confident, enthusiastic, critical and independent readers. Teachers provide opportunities within the topic work so that children are able to cope with print in a variety of forms and for a variety of purposes and read for enjoyment, information and interest.

All children in the school read every day, either to themselves or to an adult, with younger ones reading aloud regularly and listening to stories on a daily basis. As their reading skills progress we encourage children to choose from a wide range of literature.

Each child's reading is assessed regularly so that we can monitor progress. We know from experience that different children respond to different methods and so we use a variety of teaching approaches. Some are given additional literacy support in small group lessons. However, all children respond to praise, encouragement and the enjoyment that comes with a good story or research through non-fiction.

Playing your part as a parent

Parents have an important part to play in helping their children become competent and confident readers. There are lots of things you can do:

- * listen to your child regularly – at least 4 times weekly
- * read stories to them and talk about the books
- * encourage and support your child while they are learning difficult new skills
- * talk to your child about what they have just read
- * ask them questions about it so they really need to think, but make sure it's fun!
- * make sure your child see you reading for pleasure

We encourage parents to help their child by reading to them and sharing books with them. The school lends books to children to take home every evening. We use a reading record as a link between parents and teachers even when they become a fully independent reader.

Getting started: reading for EYFS & KS1

The emphasis for the youngest children is on learning to recognise the words on the page. Up to the age of seven we use structured reading programmes that includes; Bug Club, The Oxford Reading Tree Scheme and a wide variety of individual story and picture books. Your child can choose from a group of books to match the stage they have reached in their development from our colour coded collections.

To help you find out more, we have prepared a special booklet that provides detailed information about reading for infants. This is sent to parents when their children join the Reception classes.

Progressing further

As children become more independent readers, the emphasis changes. At this stage they need to develop more advanced skills such as understanding of plot and character and the author's intentions. Links between reading and writing are vital as children explore different types of texts.

For this reason, from the age of about seven onwards children need access and encouragement to choose from a wide range of literature: different authors, different types of books, fiction and information, different styles, different eras and online research.

Children can select books from the well-stocked classroom libraries. Many, however, require even greater variety and we hope that you will encourage your child to join the local library.

We also hope that you will continue to play your part by taking an interest in your child's reading and talking to him or her about it regularly. Even as they get older, children still benefit from parents reading with and to them and discussing texts.