

The Teaching of Reading at Cleveland Road Primary School

The study of English develops children's ability to listen, speak, read and write for a wide range of purposes, including the communication of their ideas, views and feelings. Children become empowered to interpret the world around them and to make sense of their experiences; in this sense, English is a tool for both our thinking and learning.

As children become enthusiastic and critical readers of stories, poetry and drama, as well as of non-fiction and a range of multi-media materials, they are enabled to express themselves effectively, creatively and imaginatively. Children are able to gain an understanding of how language works by looking at its patterns, structures and origins. Ensuring that English is placed at the heart of the learning journey, provides children with rich and creative experiences that encourage life-long learning.

At Cleveland Road Primary School, we aim to foster a love of books and reading from your child's first day with us. We believe that, when home and school work in partnership together, pupils can benefit from this support, enabling them to read fluently, with confidence and understanding.

Reading Skills and Phonics

All pupils in Reception and Key Stage 1, take part in daily phonics lessons using the *Read, Write Inc.* approach. This strategy is used to teach the children how to sound out and blend letters in order to read words – a skill referred to as “decoding”.

On entering our school, the children's understanding of phonics is assessed and pupils are placed in groups according to which sounds they need to learn to move their reading forward. The children are assessed every half term, so that they are given targeted support that will enable them to read and spell words with greater confidence. The *Read, Write Inc.* approach usually takes about 2 years to complete although this varies with each child.

Pupils in Nursery are introduced to early reading skills by sharing quality texts, learning and enjoying rhymes and playing lots of games which introduce them to oral blending and to hearing the different sounds. Some Nursery children may commence the *Read, Write Inc.* programme, if they are ready for this next stage in their learning.

Pupils who join us in Key Stage 2 are assessed on entry and are offered phonics interventions and given extra support, if it is required.

Guided Reading

Understanding phonics is only part of the process of developing reading. Once children can recognise and pronounce words with growing confidence, there are additional skills that need to be learnt and practised. These include: summarising stories, clarifying understanding, predicting, skimming and scanning, inferring and deducing.

These skills are developed initially in the Early Years Foundation Stage by providing children with regular opportunities to take part in shared reading activities and 1:1 reading time with an adult.

As the children move into Key Stage 1, and for the remainder of their time in primary school, children take part in daily Guided Reading sessions in class. In our school, Guided Reading is taught using a “*reciprocal teaching*” approach. *Reciprocal Reading* is a method of teaching that is used to improve learners’ reading skills, develop speaking and listening, promote higher-order thinking and enable all learners to access the curriculum. Studies carried out also suggest that the skills developed within reciprocal teaching sessions are also applied, by learners, into other contexts.

The aims of the reciprocal approach are:

- To improve reading comprehension through the use of four reading strategies: **predicting, questioning, clarifying and summarising**
- To scaffold the four strategies by modelling, guiding and applying the strategies while reading
- To enable pupils to reflect on their reading and develop higher-order thinking skills
- To use the social nature of learning to improve reading comprehension

Reading Resources

Great books are at the heart of our curriculum and drive the learning journeys that we plan for each of the terms. The books read in class are used to engage pupils in conversations about texts, as well as creating a starting point for their own writing.

At Cleveland Road Primary School we have invested heavily in a wide range of books, across the genres, including books from published reading schemes such as *Oxford Reading Tree* and *Project X*. *Reciprocal Reading* is taught using a wide selection of quality picture books and novels that have the potential to encourage children to engage in deep and meaningful discussions.

We have a well-stocked School Library, where the children can enjoy listening to and reading books as well as doing research for the topics they are studying. In addition, each class has its own library from which pupils can select books to take home and share with their families. We have colour-coded many of the books on offer, so that children can select books that are suited to their reading levels, but we also encourage children to make their own book choices. In doing so, we hope to inspire and excite the children to engage in reading independently and to read for pleasure in their own time.

Additional Approaches

The teaching of spelling is incorporated into daily English lessons. In Reception, the children learn to recognise and read the most frequently used words (High Frequency Words). All pupils in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 are given a weekly spelling list of words (including topic-related vocabulary) to learn at home; they receive a spelling test each week. The pupils also learn and apply their knowledge of spelling patterns during regular handwriting sessions. The *Annual Spelling Bee* competition provides all the children with an opportunity to compete for medals and trophies are awarded to the winners.

We actively encourage the children to become members of their local library and to visit it regularly. We have strong links with the Central Library in Redbridge and organise visits to the library during school time, to meet the staff, see what is available and to attend workshops

and story sessions, when they become available. The children are also encouraged to take part in the *Summer Reading Challenge* organised by the public library.

We strongly recommend that all parents and guardians ensure that their children visit their local library regularly in addition to enjoying books at home each day and sharing a nightly bedtime story. Becoming a member of a public library is free and provides your child with a wide range of books and services that will support their learning.

Redbridge Central Library (formerly Ilford Central library)

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