

Reading

Intent

At Emneth Academy, we recognise that reading is a tool for life. We know that, in simple terms, reading unlocks the rest of the primary curriculum. As an Academy, we want our children to love reading and leave us at the end of Year 6 as accomplished and fluent readers. If children at our academy fall behind for any reason, we endeavour to ensure that they catch up quickly. Additionally, we believe that every child should read confidently and fluently before they progress to the next stage of their education.

Implementation

- We recognise that giving opportunities for pupils to read is of paramount importance. As a result, they read daily in all lessons. A love of reading is shared from their first day at school through daily storytelling sessions.
- Phonics is taught from day one in Reception through the use of the Little Wandle scheme of work. All staff are given frequent training updates to ensure the teaching of Little Wandle is the best it can be.
- In Key Stage 1, pupils take home a phonic book to read, along with a 'reading for pleasure' book, which is carefully selected from our wonderful library. As they pass their phonics screening check, we use Salford Reading Age Tests to determine which band book they should be reading. We are lucky enough to have access to a fantastic selection of up to date Big Cat Collins books. All children in Key Stage 2 take home a reading for pleasure book, so as to engender a love of reading.
- In Reception and Year 1, during those vital early stages of learning to read, children are taught using the Little Wandle scheme. At the beginning of Year 2, Phase 5 Phonics is recapped and reviewed, before embarking on Whole Class Reading lessons.
- We teach Whole Class Reading lessons from Autumn 2 in Year 2, right the way to the end of Year 6. Texts are appropriate for children's ages. The lessons are based on Vocabulary, Inference, Prediction, Explanation, Retrieval and Summarising/Sequencing (VIPERS). Children are exposed to a variety of high-quality fiction, non-fiction and poetry texts during sessions. The texts have been carefully sequenced from Year 2 to Year 6 to ensure that links are made across different curriculum areas. For example, in Year 5 Autumn 2, pupils read a non-fiction book on David Attenborough because in the Spring term, they write a biography on him in their Writing lessons.

- To ensure that parents are engaged with their children's learning, we have a group of volunteers who come in to school to read with children across the school. This helps to foster a love of reading.
- All teachers read to their children for a minimum of ten minutes per day.
- We have implemented two reading reward systems, which encourage reading at home. The first is a badge system, based on the amount of reads a child completes outside of school. The second is a raffle system, where names are put into a hat based on the amount of reads they have done throughout the school week.
- Intervention groups are put in place to support children in KS2 who did not pass the Year 1 phonics screening test. This is through the Little Wandle scheme.
- Librarians (a selection of Year 6 pupils) run a library club that supports younger child and helps them to read.
- Children are read to at the beginning of whole school assemblies, as they enter the hall. This is used as a calming technique and helps pupils to settle. Staff recognise that reading can be a deregulation technique for children who are feeling overwhelmed.

Impact

Attainment in reading is measured using the statutory assessments: at the end of EYFS, at the end of KS2 and also at the end of Year 1, with the Phonics screening check. In addition to this, year groups 1-6 complete the Salford Reading Age tests termly and PiXL tests follow the PiXL assessment calendar. As a result, pupils at Emneth Academy are enthusiastic about reading – teachers and classrooms reflect this. Children learn the key skills and techniques associated with reading comprehension. Pupils move from year group to year group developing and engendering a love of reading.