



Townlands C of E Primary Academy

A journey of learning in the light of God's love.

English - Reading

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go"

Dr. Seuss

Our Vision for Reading

At Townlands, we believe that being able to read is a vital skill that enables us to understand and express ourselves more effectively. We passionately believe in helping children to develop not only the technical skills of reading to be confident, competent readers, but also in promoting a love for literature in its many forms. Children are encouraged to express themselves creatively and imaginatively as they become enthusiastic and critical readers of fiction and non-fiction texts. Children gain an understanding of how language works by looking at its vocabulary, patterns, structures and origins.

Why do we teach reading?

At Townlands, we teach phonics and reading on a daily basis to develop both reading fluency and reading comprehension, so that the children can fully immerse themselves and have opportunities to reflect and build upon prior learning.

It is our intention when teaching the reading curriculum that our pupils acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and understanding which will equip them with the fundamental tools to achieve, throughout their learning journey at Townlands and beyond.

Whilst reading is taught in its own right, we also appreciate the importance that language provides for accessing the whole curriculum. Therefore, it is our intention to encourage children to transfer their reading skills in order to develop success across all subject areas.

Our aim is to ensure that every child becomes a confident, competent reader by the time they leave Townlands.

Rationale – Why we do what we do...

Over the past few years, we have found that there has been a slow but significant decrease in the language skills of children as they enter EYFS. This, along with a need to promote a more deep-rooted love of reading, has prompted us to shape our curriculum with greater emphasis in these areas. After completing a literacy audit with pupils and staff, we found that there were opportunities for us to enhance children's progress and attainment in reading, and one of the ways that we achieve this is by addressing the language skill gap. Teachers plan and deliver discrete vocabulary lessons as well as integrate the teaching of vocabulary across all subjects within the curriculum.

Phonics test results have exceeded the national average in recent years but our audit has revealed that these scores may have masked some issues in progress with decoding and spelling for a small but significant number of pupils, as they progress through school. We have now invested in a more rigorous phonics teaching programme, a new KS1 reading scheme that better supports progress in phonics, and with earlier intervention where necessary we can ensure that pupils' knowledge and understanding of phonics is more widely embedded.

Greater depth reading results in KS1 and KS2 fluctuate and our audit suggests this arises because some children find questions on inference challenging. As a result, teachers will dedicate more time in reading lessons to explain these skills and allow children to practise them. We have also introduced Accelerated Reader as this enables teachers to monitor reading practice and progress more accurately and effectively. Teachers are now able to carefully guide children to books based upon individual reading levels.

Enrichment

Children will develop an understanding about other cultures around the world; they will learn about different time periods and further develop cultural capital by learning about significant others through a range of varied and progressive texts that are used within the classroom.

We promote reading for pleasure in a variety of ways:

- Townlands has a well-stocked and purpose-built school library. The books are good quality and up to date. The space is open to all children across the school and adults encourage children to feel empowered as they make their own reading choices.

- All classrooms have an inviting reading corner, containing a range of books as well as soft furnishings.
- We participate in World Book Day and author study events.
- We host a bi-annual Scholastic Book Fair for children and their families.
- As a school, each class has the opportunity to visit Earl Shilton Library on an annual basis.
- We arrange visits from authors who deliver workshops to the children.
- We encourage whole school participation in the regional summer reading competition, organised by Leicestershire Libraries.
- We develop the habit of reading widely: five times a week at home, for both pleasure and information.
- We hold a 'Rehome a Book' sale, where we invite every child to donate a children's book that isn't age appropriate for them anymore or they are happy to part with (appropriate for a child between 4-11 years old) to the sale.

We hold an annual English Inspire morning, whereby parents/carers are invited into the classroom to participate in an English lesson with their child/children. The most recent of these have focused on reading comprehension.

We understand that in order to achieve, children need to acquire and develop a wide vocabulary. Research indicates that vocabulary size is a significant predictor of academic attainment and of success in life. Therefore, we explicitly teach Tier 2 and Tier 3 vocabulary to all year groups.

We host a new parent information session for our EYFS parents/carers. Part of this meeting involves an introduction to phonics teaching. In year 6, a SATS meeting is held for our parents/carers so that they understand age-related expectations. These sessions are always very well attended and we have received many comments about the usefulness of these sessions.

Reading is celebrated in classrooms and around school, where our bright and colourful displays celebrate children's writing and their favourite books.

How do we deliver the reading curriculum?

The teaching and implementation of the reading curriculum at Townlands is based on the National Curriculum. As a school we have daily timetabled slots for phonics and reading. Our English curriculum is derived around high-quality content that also aims to develop children's' cultural capital and curiosity of the world. We use books and a range of text types to create opportunities to develop:

- reading fluency and comprehension with a focus on key reading strategies and skills.
- an understanding of how to use and apply grammar and punctuation in context and across the wider curriculum.
- exploration of the structure and features of different genres, including an understanding of purpose and audience, literary techniques and authors' word choices.

High quality literature is chosen by class teachers to expose children to a diverse range of characters, settings, experiences and styles of writing.

To develop purpose for both reading and writing, all children will have the opportunity to make cross curricular links with other subjects such history, geography and RE. We strongly believe that this approach provides many focused and purposeful opportunities for reading.

At Townlands, we identify children who need support and provide intervention in the most effective and efficient way possible. We run intervention reading groups and we have also been fortunate to have supporting adults come into school to hear children read. We strive to make children fluent once we have helped to equip them with the confidence, tools and strategies that they need.

English in the curriculum

- We plan using the National Curriculum.
- We enhance the curriculum using progression grids.
- Subject progression grids are used to develop long term planning.
- Teachers use the long-term planning to plan units of work and deliver individual lessons.
- High quality texts are chosen, which link with the wider curriculum, as modelled texts and to be read aloud.

This is how we support and ensure access for all children:

- Ensure that a range of resources are available to enable success for all pupils (e.g. access to a wide range of literature from different genres and in different formats, access to more than one reading book etc).
- We use teacher and self-assessment to quickly identify any child who requires additional support with specific skills.

This is how we challenge:

- An additional challenge is planned for to develop deeper thinking or application of taught skills.

How does the reading curriculum embed knowledge?

The successful approach that we adopt at Townlands is demonstrated in the children's achievement, their sustained learning and transferrable skills. Children become more confident readers and by the time they are in upper Key Stage 2, most genres of text are familiar to them.

Our children have a sound understanding of phonics and spelling strategies and will apply this to texts that they read. Through the time-tabled teaching of reading, the majority of our children become fluent and confident word readers by the end of KS1. Pupils will use a range of strategies for decoding words, including phonics. In Year 6, our readers are increasingly more fluent, confident and able. They can access a range of texts for pleasure and enjoyment, as well as use their reading skills to unlock learning across all areas of the curriculum. They are also developing a good knowledge of a range of authors. We firmly believe that reading is the key to all learning and so the impact of our reading curriculum goes beyond the results of the statutory assessments. Parents/carers will have a good understanding of how they can support reading at home, and contribute regularly to home-school records.

Termly assessment is showing that most children at Townlands are achieving in English at age-related expectations. Each year we have children achieving at a greater depth in reading at the end of KS1 and we are working hard to sustain this by the end of KS2.



Useful Websites

Here are links to some useful websites:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-songs-index/zhwdgwx>

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/>

<https://www.lovereadings.co.uk/>