CURRICULUM SUBJECT OVERVIEW - READING



OUR SCHOOL VISION

The children of The Hawthorns are at the heart of all that we do. As a whole school community, we nurture and challenge our children within a caring environment, so they grow both personally and academically.

We are passionate about developing the whole child; encouraging them to have a growth mindset, believe in themselves, aspire to achieve their best and become resilient lifelong learners.

We uphold a strong sense of belonging by valuing our children's individuality and celebrating diversity to ensure all our children thrive.

OUR CURRICULUM VISION

At The Hawthorns Primary School, we aim to provide a unique and creative learning experience with high aspirations for all our pupils.

Our exciting and innovative curriculum is tailored to inspire and challenge each individual child so they develop a passion for learning and aspire to be successful.

The curriculum offers a wealth of knowledge through real life experiences to foster a spirit of curiosity and purpose, encouraging children to make connections and equipping them with the skills needed for their futures.

SUBJECT INTENT

We are committed to fulfilling our aim for all children to leave primary school being able to read fluently, understand extended prose and to read for pleasure. Reading is a key aspect of the curriculum and makes a significant contribution to the development of pupils as thinkers and learners.

Our aspiration for each of our children is to equip them to enter the world of work as articulate and literate individuals with a strong love of reading.

Competence in reading is the key to independent learning and has a direct effect on progress in all other areas of the curriculum. We aim for our children to be 'readers', not just children who can read.

CULTURAL CAPITAL

The essential knowledge that children need to be educated citizens

At The Hawthorns, we provide a range of texts to deliberately expose the children to inspirational authors from different eras and cultures, with a range of genres and key texts that we would want them to have encountered by the time they leave primary education.

All year groups use a selection of books that have been hand-picked by class teachers and English Leads to ensure a coverage of a variety of genres. Class book boxes include texts that have been specifically chosen because they are narratively complex, are classic reads, teach diversity or have non-linear time sequences. All teachers read these texts to children throughout the year so that at the end of the school year, pupils have a breadth of knowledge and understanding of a range of literature. We regularly have visits from authors, either physically or virtually, and annually take part in World Book Day. We run reading competitions/sponsored read events and invite volunteers from the local community to come in and read with our younger children. We have a reading buddy scheme where older and younger pupils read books together. All children have access to a well-resourced school library and a reading room where they can enjoy quiet reading time. We also provide quality reading material for our PPG children through the Letterbox Scheme.

IMPLEMENTATION

Reading is prioritised throughout the school. All classes are read to daily by an adult. Every class has a reading corner where children are encouraged to read for pleasure, and there are set times during the day in each class for individual reading for pleasure.

In EYFS and KS1, the school places the highest priority on high quality daily phonics teaching and practise using a systematic synthetic phonics scheme (Read Write Inc). Every day children read fully decodable books which have been carefully structured in cumulative steps for children learning to read, so that they can decode every word as their knowledge of the alphabetic code increases. Additional daily phonic intervention sessions are prioritised for the lowest 20% of readers to enable those children to keep up, not catch up.

Teachers use a whole class reading approach to explicitly teach and model reading strategies as well as using guided reading for specific, targeted groups so that children can develop comprehension skills.

IMPACT

By the time they leave The Hawthorns, children are able to read a variety of genres fluently and with enjoyment.

They will have the skills to retrieve information from text books or web based articles to inform their own understanding and knowledge.

They have strong comprehension skills are able to discuss books and make reasoned judgements, justifying their opinions. They are able to make comparisons of themes, plot and purpose between different books and different authors.

A strong love of reading is evident and children read for their own pleasure and enjoyment.