Our Reading Vision



At Rickmansworth Park School, reading is an absolute priority.

> *"Reading transforms the human brain which transforms the mind, which transforms the life of every reader."*
>
> *Maryanne Wolf, neuroscientist and reading specialist*

Reading is enabled for the children from day one in Reception, when our Read, Write Inc phonics teaching begins. All the children learn their first 30 sounds in 30 days. From this point on, every child is assessed every six weeks and grouped for their reading (literacy) lessons, right through to the end of Year 2 (and into Year 3 for those who need it). This allows for early intervention and bespoke, rapid catch up sessions for any pupils not making good progress. In all reading lessons, highly trained staff deliver the Read Write Inc programme with fidelity to ensure quality first teaching for all. All of the above means we know exactly where each child is on their journey to becoming a fluent reader. Book bag reading books are carefully matched to the child's assessed reading level, enabling them to experience success in reading and to begin a love of books.

Literacy lessons across both Key Stages are all based on high quality texts with challenging vocabulary and concepts. The children are immersed in these texts throughout each literacy unit. Quality first teaching of reading also continues outside of literacy lessons; teachers share books and stories with every class every day so that children are exposed to a wide range of genres and authors. All year groups have a daily story time in which the teacher reads aloud to the class. Books are chosen with care and consideration across the key stages in order to increase the cultural capital of our children and enable them to become knowledgeable and understanding about the world around them. We believe that comprehension is only truly possible when a child has a broad knowledge of the world in which they live. There are no short cuts to comprehension. Inference and prediction depend on knowledge, and knowledge depends on reading a lot.

At Rickmansworth Park we use many strategies to increase children's love of reading, including:

- Teachers enthusiastically promote books that they believe their class will enjoy reading.
- Books are displayed in class in an appealing way, at a height accessible for the children to browse.
- Old, worn out books are replaced with newer, more appealing ones.
- Teachers work 1-1 with more reluctant readers to help them find books that appeal.
- Teachers read snippets of new books, then get the children to make predictions about the story, before putting the book on the shelf to be borrowed.
- Multiple copies of class readers are available so that every child is involved in the story.
- Children are encouraged to speak to the class about books they have read or enjoyed.

It is human nature to love doing what we are good at. Rickmansworth Park teachers understand that if we want children to love reading, we must impart our own love for it.

We want children to feel: "I read well. I *choose* to read. I am a reader."