



Phonics and Early Reading

At Dinting C of E Primary School, our aim is to provide the teaching and the opportunities for every child to become a confident and fluent reader and develop a love of books and reading. Fluency refers to both the ability to decode words but also to understand what they are reading in context.

How we teach phonics and Early Reading (Early Years and KS1)

At Dinting School, we use 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' to teach phonics as we know that using one scheme consistently produces good or better readers.

- In Reception and Y1, children follow the progression within Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised programme. Phonics is taught daily and there is a review session on a Friday.
- Phonics starts in Reception in week 2 to ensure the children make a strong start.
- By the end of Reception, children will have been taught up to the end of phase 4.
- By the end of year 1, children will have been taught up to the end of phase 5.
- Children in year 2 recap any gaps in their phonics knowledge in the autumn term.
- Any children who still need further support with their phonics learning, will begin 'Rapid Catch-Up' in the Spring Term.
- Reception lessons start at 15 minutes, with daily additional oral blending – increasing quickly to 30 minutes.
- Y1 and Y2 lessons are 30 minutes long.
- KS2 children who still require phonics input will be taught in very small groups with their peers.

If you are a parent and would like more information about how to support your child with phonics at home, please follow this link to find the Reception and Year 1 overview as well as videos of the sound pronunciations, letter formation sheets and other helpful resources.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Reading Practice Sessions

- Children across Reception, Year 1, Year 2 (and beyond if appropriate) apply their phonics knowledge by using a full matched decodable reader in a small group reading practice session.
- These sessions are 15 minutes long and happen three times a week. There are approximately 6 children in a group.
- The sessions follow the model set out in Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised.
- The children then take the same book home the following week to ensure success is shared with the family.
- In Reception, Children who are not yet blending take a wordless book home.

How do we assess phonic knowledge?

- In Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, at the end of each week there is a review session which recaps the learning. There are also whole review weeks (pre-planned and bespoke review weeks to address gaps identified by the class teacher's ongoing formative assessment).
- Children identified in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 as in danger of falling behind are immediately identified and daily 'keep up' sessions are put in place – these sessions follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised programme.
- In Reception and Year 1, the children are assessed at the end of every half term using the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised assessment tracker.
- Children in Year 1 complete the statutory Phonics Screening Check in the summer term.
- Children who do not meet standard in the Phonics Screening Check in Y1, will complete this in Y2. Support continues to be put in place for these children.

Reading for Pleasure – EYFS, KS1 & KS2

Alongside daily teaching of phonics, reading for pleasure is an important part of reading. We ensure children develop a love of reading and are exposed to a range of interesting and relevant authors. We promote a love of reading in the following ways:

- Teaching of poetry, which includes performing and learning a range of poems by heart.
- Daily story time.
- Guided Reading Groups and Whole Class reading sessions which include a range of books to ensure that children have a rich reading diet, vocabulary is explicitly taught and children can learn key phrases in the book.
- Book areas within all classrooms across the school which have a carefully selected range of books and reading materials, including a selection of books made by the children in each class, newspapers and magazines and a box of topic related books to support their current learning of the wider curriculum. We ensure the books available in the reading areas reflect the children and their experiences whilst also introducing them to new cultures and experiences which they may not be familiar with.
- Interactive corridor displays to promote particular authors or books centred around a theme.
- Our Virtual Library on the school website is to enable children to access virtual books from home.
- Alongside children's decodable reading book in KS1, all children take home a 'Reading for Pleasure' book each week. There is regular access to the class reading spaces, school library and the outdoor reading shed to make book selections.

How we teach Reading (KS2)

We teach reading comprehension through reading lessons and through Guided Reading Sessions with small groups of children.

- An element of prosody (reading with feeling)
- A close look at key vocabulary that children may be unfamiliar with
- Unpicking the key skill focus for that lesson (retrieval, inference, prediction, summarising, vocabulary, making links)
- Modelled answering of questions
- Opportunities to apply the day's reading skills independently
- Teaching fluency by model reading, echo reading, choral reading and paired reading

In addition to our reading sessions in KS2, we also provide children with:

- Opportunities to read for pleasure
- Daily rapid catch up for children in years 3-6 (for any child who is not a fluent reader)
- Regular story times
- Regular, open ended discussions about stories and books.
- Opportunities to read and discuss a wide read of genres including poetry and non-fiction (including weekly newspapers to ensure children are aware of local, national and global issues).

Books that the children take home are carefully chosen to match the children's interests and their level of fluency. Children can select their own book from a range of fiction and Non-Fiction titles to promote Reading for Pleasure.

We also have a number of reading enrichment activities, including:

- Regular visits to the school library
- Regular visits from authors and poets throughout the school year.
- Participation in local reading competitions including the library summer reading challenge.
- Celebrations for World Book Week including reading café with parent participation, competitions and lots of amazing costumes and activities.
- Access to our virtual library on the school website.
- Reading buddies- teaming up older and younger classes to share favourite books together.
- The After School 'Reading Hub' -by invitation only and supported by members of staff and Governors.

In addition, 1:1 reading is put in place for children that need extra practise and an invitation to the Reading Hub for extra reading opportunities and to enjoy listening to books read aloud. Books that the children take home are carefully chosen to match the children's interests and their level of fluency.

Useful links

Book recommendations and excerpts to help children choose what to read next!

[Kids' Poems and Stories with Michael Rosen](#)

[Love Reading for Kids](#)

[Author Cressida Cowell Magical Ideas & Stories](#)

[Book Trust](#)

Links where you can read, watch, hear and explore children's poems

[Centre for Literacy in Primary Education](#)

[Poetry by Heart](#)

[Poetry Foundation](#)

[The Children's Poetry Archive](#)

[Interviews with Authors](#)