



Reading at Great Moor Infant School

Our aim is to encourage and develop a lifelong love of books and reading in our young learners.

At Great Moor Infant School we believe parents and carers have a very important part to play in helping their child learn to read.

'Reading Evenings' are held regularly in order that parents/carers can be kept fully informed of how we teach reading and phonics at Great Moor.

We would like to take this opportunity to explain briefly how we promote the teaching of reading at Great Moor Infant School. Reading is an enjoyable and enriching activity which we want our pupils to embrace.

We have resourced the school well in order to support children's learning of reading and love of books.

We wish to work in partnership with parents to ensure all of our children have the best possible start to reading.

A child's journey to become a reader starts with them listening and sharing books. This is an invaluable way of showing that books are there to be enjoyed, as well as building children's vocabulary and giving them a sense of security. Through sharing books parents are modelling the reading process and showing children enjoyment and learning that can be found from reading. Once children begin to learn to read, parents should read with them and hear them read. It is essential to continue to devote some time to reading stories to them so that children will experience a wide range of books and enjoy that precious time with their parents.

Colour Bands

The school operates a scheme where each reading book is assessed for its level of difficulty and colour banded accordingly. Various interests are catered for within the books on offer.

We use colour banded books from a wide range of reading schemes.

Each colour band contains a wide range of reading materials containing fiction, non-fiction, poetry and plays. These books will vary in a number of ways, including layout, size, vocabulary and length providing the children a rich diet of literature.

The difference between each colour band is very gradual, so that children do not experience great difficulty moving up through the scheme.

We also have a large range of good quality fiction and non-fiction books for the children to choose from in our school library. Staff assist children in the library ensuring that they choose appropriately and treat the school library with respect.

Children are encouraged to visit the local library and to undertake the reading challenges during the summer.

Support from home

Children take home two reading books and a library book. Reading books are changed once a week.

The children also take home a home/school reading diary with their books. We ask parents to write a comment about their child's reading and indicate the number of pages they have completed with their child. Teachers and teaching assistants will do the same in school.

When commenting in Reading Records just a few words will do. Your child might like to draw a happy face/sad face. Later on in school, children who are older may write a comment themselves.

Comment upon...

- Comment on enjoyment of book / story
- Anything that made them laugh
- Why you liked it
- Any problems you encountered
- Anything new that you have noticed about your child's reading

Nursery children will select reading books to bring home. In Reception, colour banded books will be sent home for you to share. This will continue into key stage 1.

It is important that you enjoy the book together. Discuss the book with your child, ask appropriate questions. Teachers will record specific targets for learning in reading records so that parents are able to focus on them at home. Please record any comments in their reading diary.

Staff at school will hear your child read at least once a week. As children begin to read longer texts they may keep books for longer than one week.

It is important to remember that every child is an individual and will progress with reading through the colour bands will be at different rates. If any child experiences difficulties this will be discussed with parents and future strategies or reading interventions are planned to help overcome any issues. Information regarding interventions can found on the website within our 'School Offer'.

Teaching and Use of Phonics

At Great Moor Infant School we use phonics to help the children to read and spell. Phonics is about how we break up and blend sounds in order to read and spell, for example: c – a – t, blended together reads cat, or th – i – n, blended together reads thin.

At Great Moor Infants we use a scheme called 'Letters and Sounds'. The children are grouped according to the level at which they are working for this aspect of the curriculum.

At the end of year 1 pupils are assessed against the phonics standard. Should children not meet the standard at the end of year 1 they have to retake the test at the end of year 2.

Things to Remember

- 1 Do hear your child read every day
- 2 Little and often is more beneficial