

Our approach to teaching reading

At Morecambe Bay Primary School, we value the importance of reading. It is a necessary skill that we learn as children that brings us a great deal of pleasure. We believe in developing a reading culture throughout the school by creating welcoming book areas in classrooms, a school library hosting a variety of books, and raising the profile of reading through a print rich environment, attractive book displays and promoting the written word at all times.

We have a large selection of 'book banded' texts in school. Children are matched to a colour band in accordance with their reading ability and are given a text to take home on a daily basis. This is assessed on a regular basis to ensure children are reading within the correct colour band.

We use a variety of different strategies to teach reading across the school. These are interconnected to develop a whole round reader who can use different approaches and develop broad rich language skills. These strategies include the teacher listening to children read from the banded colour scheme on a regular basis, at least once per week with daily reading for those who require more regular reading practice. In addition children share class books which are read aloud to the whole class and often form the basis of topic/ cross curricular work. Throughout all key stages children have regular access to group guided reading sessions, where texts are explored with a particular focus i.e. use of vocabulary, structure of different text types.

We use a synthetic phonic approach to teach phonics in the Nursery to Year 2. We follow Letters and Sounds whereby children learn:

- Grapheme – phoneme correspondences and segment words for spelling.
- How to blend sounds for reading and segment words for spelling.
- Apply skills and knowledge to read age-appropriate stories featuring the grapheme – phoneme correspondences they have learned.

Alongside this children are encouraged to learn on sight keywords that are age appropriate.

Parents are integral part in the children's 'reading journey'. We encourage children to read at home on a daily basis and communication between school and home is recorded in a 'Reading Record'. We invite parents/ members of the community to come and read with children both individually and as a group.