



Learning to Read at South Stanley Infant and Nursery School

Information for Parents in Reception and Key Stage 1

Our provision

At the start of their learning to read journey, we need to give our children both the 'mechanics of reading' (being able to read words on a page) and 'understanding of reading' (comprehension) skills.

Daily phonics lessons using a programme called Sounds-Write teach the children the links between letters and the sounds they represent. We teach children how to say sounds rapidly to read words (blending) and to break words into sounds to write them (segmenting).

Every day children share a whole group reading book linked to the phonics learning of the previous week. They are supported to develop their instant recognition of letter-sound correspondences (code) and their blending skills. When they are confident to read the words on the page we explore comprehension of the book through questioning and discussion. This book is sent home as the homework practise book the following week, ensuring children get the maximum opportunity to practise and embed the 'code' they have been taught.

'Book hooks' throughout school plus 'Story Suitcase' books in Key Stage 1 provide a range of high quality and award-winning books for the children to get to know really well. From this they learn new and interesting words, develop books in common enabling book blether which in turn promotes comprehension. When the children know the book really well they can retell the story, act it out with friends and create their own stories by changing aspects of well-known ones.

The 'book hooks' are used as the basis for English teaching, explicitly teaching vocabulary, comprehension and leading to exciting writing opportunities.

Comprehension skills are further developed using a specific comprehension programme which is progressive and builds skills as children move up through the school.

Poetry is shared at the beginning of assemblies to promote an awareness of rhythm and rhyme, to inspire thoughtful conversation and to provide our children with a variety of different genres to enjoy.

Reading for pleasure

Having a love of reading gives your child the best possible chances in life, as well as the fun of a thousand new adventures through the power of stories.

Daily story times give your child to opportunity to hear high quality stories being read to them.

Our cosy book corners provide a calm and comfortable setting to enjoy a range of books that are recommend by teachers and chosen by the children themselves.

Weekly 'book blether' sessions allow the children to chat about books they have in common and books they would like to recommend to their friends.

Every week your child chooses a 'reading for pleasure' book to bring home. This is to enjoy by themselves and with the family.

Our playground library provides daily opportunities to enjoy books with friends and our lunch time supervisors.

Assessment

Every lesson your child's teacher is assessing what they know, what they can do, using teacher observations and judgement. Teachers then adapt their teaching to make sure every child is engaged and learning.

At the end of term in Key Stage 1, we complete standardised comprehension tests with the children to find out what and how they are applying their learning. We also undertake simple phonics assessments in Reception and Key Stage 1, to see how the children apply the letter sound correspondences they have been taught in reading and writing words. This helps to inform the next steps in our teaching and to identify any child who may need extra help or further challenge.

At the end of Year 1, children undertake the statutory Phonics Screening Test, where the children use their knowledge of phonics (letter and sound correspondences) to read a range of real and nonsense words.

At the end of Year 2, children undertake standardised Government tests in reading comprehension, to assess their levels of attainment and to ensure teacher judgments are robust.

For more information please see our website www.southstanleyinfants.co.uk or speak to your child's class teacher.