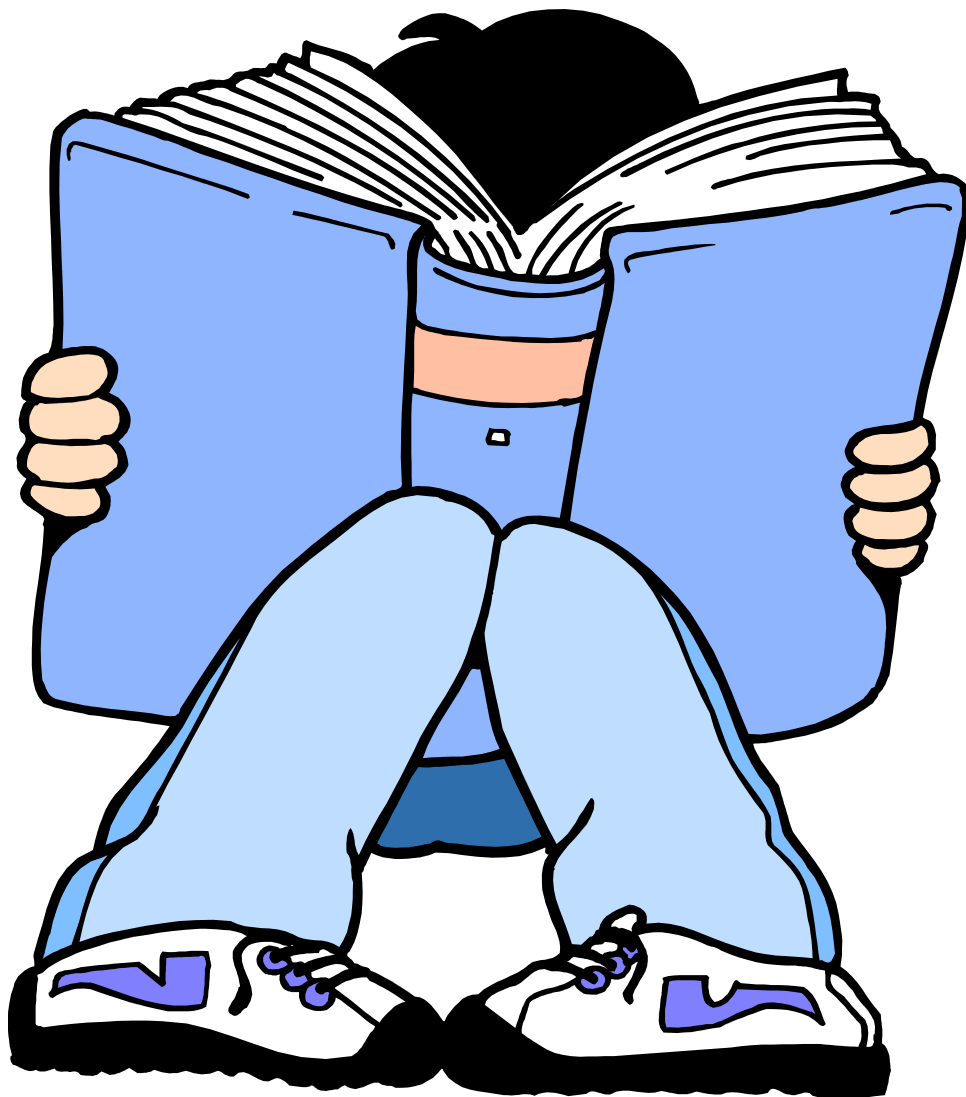


"There is no substitute for books in the life of a child."

May Ellen Chase

At Emmaville School we want to encourage a love of books and to help all of our pupils to acquire the skills to become fluent readers



Phonics and Reading Guidelines

These guidelines have been produced in addition to Emmaville School's English Policy and will be reviewed and updated as the need arises. It is the responsibility of the Headteacher, Avril Armstrong, and the English Coordinator, Debbie Hamilton, to regularly review these guidelines.

These guidelines were reviewed in May 2014.

We acknowledge that English is the main language of communication in the UK and, as such, its mastery is a pre-requisite for life in our country.

The study of English develops children's abilities to listen, speak, read and write for a wide range of purposes, and to a variety of audiences, and in so doing enables them to use language to learn and communicate ideas, views and feelings. It enables children to express themselves creatively and imaginatively, as they become enthusiastic and critical readers of stories, poetry and drama, as well as non-fiction and media texts.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more you learn, the more places you'll go." (Dr. Seuss)

English is the foundation for all the learning that takes place in our school and its mastery empowers the learner and is essential for independent learning and most aspects of everyday life.

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who do not, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures. In fact, there is evidence to suggest that reading for pleasure is more likely to determine whether a child does well at school than their social or economic background.

It is our belief that reading is the single most important skill necessary for a happy, productive and successful life.

"A child with reading skills necessary to access and use information is not just learning to read but reading to learn. Reading skills are essential to function in our society." (Duane Alexander)

Ten reasons why reading is so important

- Children who read often and widely get better at it. After all, practice makes perfect in everything we do and reading is no different.
- Reading exercises the brain. It strengthens brain connections and actually builds new connections.
- Reading improves concentration.
- Reading teaches children about the world around them. Through reading, they learn about people, places and events outside of their own experience. Through an enjoyment of books they are exposed to ways of life, ideas and beliefs about the world which may be different from those which surround them.
- Reading improves a child's vocabulary, leads to more highly developed language skills and improves the child's ability to write. This is because children learn new words as they read but also because they unconsciously absorb information as they read about how to structure sentences and how to use words and language effectively.
- Reading develops a child's imagination. This is because when we read, our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures.
- Reading helps children develop empathy. When we are engaged in a story, we are also imagining how the characters are feeling. We use our own experience to imagine how we would feel in the same situation.
- Children who read achieve at school. Good reading skills and a positive attitude towards reading and an enjoyment of books helps children to be able to access all subject areas; reading enriches lives.
- Reading is a great form of entertainment. A paperback book does not take up much space in a bag or a suitcase, so you can take it anywhere and you will never be lonely or bored.
- Finally, reading relaxes the body and calms the mind.

"So it is with children who learn to read fluently and well: they begin to take flight into new worlds as effortlessly as young birds take to the sky." (William James)

Aims and objectives of these Guidelines

- To enable children to use spoken and written language effectively in their lives, facilitating communication, self-expression and learning.
- To enable children to enjoy literature of all kinds and become appreciative and discriminating readers.

- To ensure teaching and learning in school supports the development of speaking and listening skills, the acquisition of good phonic and reading skills, ensuring that all pupils achieve their full potential according to their ages and abilities.
- To ensure that the school's teaching staff is highly trained and consists of committed teachers who have the expertise to develop the potential of all pupils.
- To ensure teaching styles and methods vary to suit pupils' differing learning styles and abilities.
- To provide phonic and reading resources for all pupils that will support effective teaching and learning.

Learning and Teaching Guidelines for phonics and reading

The school currently follows the National Literacy Strategy as required by law.

However, within this system children are developed at their own rates and according to their own individual abilities, so that every pupil achieves the skills relevant and appropriate to his/her age and ability.

A new curriculum for English will be introduced in September 2014 and the school is in the process of preparing for these changes.

"Babies are born with the instinct to speak; the way spiders are born with the instinct to spin webs. You don't need to train babies to speak they just do it. But reading is different." (Steven Pinker)

From September 2013 we introduced into the curriculum the Read Write Inc Phonics Scheme. This scheme was devised by Ruth Miskin. At the core of Read Write Inc is the lively and vigorous teaching of synthetic phonics. In the first instance children learn the 44 common sounds in the English language and how to sound-blend words for reading (decoding) at the same time as developing handwriting skills and spelling (encoding.)

Read Write Inc has five principles, known as the five Ps.

- **Pace** - The programme is designed for the children to complete it as quickly as possible. Teaching should be energetic and rigorous, to ensure that no time is wasted.
- **Praise - a lot** - Children learn more quickly when they are praised for what they do well.
- **Purpose** - The purpose of the teaching is made clear through modeling by the teacher and by encouraging the children to *think out loud*.
- **Participation** - All children take part in all aspects of the phonics lesson.

- **Passion** - The teaching must be larger than life so children engage in the learning. The greater the passion, the faster the progress.

As children's phonological skills develop, they will begin to be able to access a range of books. The school does not have one particular reading scheme; we use a range of books from a variety of schemes. The books we offer the children to read in guided sessions or to read independently are taken from Book Bands. The following is a list of some of the series of fiction and non fiction books that we offer our children in Key Stage 1:

- ❖ **Alphakids (Gardner)**
- ❖ **Alphaworld (Gardner)**
- ❖ **Lighthouse (Ginn)**
- ❖ **Story Chest (Kingscourt)**
- ❖ **Rigby Star (Rigby)**
- ❖ **Spotty Zebra (Nelson Thornes)**
- ❖ **PM Storybook Starters (Nelson Thornes)**
- ❖ **Oxford Reading Tree (OUP)**

When children move into Key Stage 2 and as their reading skills grow, they are then offered more complex reading materials following the Book Bands suggestions. All of the books in school are colour banded. We regularly update the books that we offer the children and we ensure that we cater for all needs and abilities.

The school library offers a range and variety of fiction and non fiction texts. It is a rich resource for the children and is used extensively.

It is our belief that reading exposes children to a world of imagination, showing them that nothing is impossible in this world and in the words of Walt Disney:

*"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on
Treasure Island."*