



The Trent-Rylands Federation

Trent Vale Infant and Nursery School *and* Beeston Rylands Junior School



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Dear Parents/ Carers of Year 1 children

We are strongly committed to developing a love of reading for all our children. Reading for pleasure can benefit a child's education, social and cognitive development, their wellbeing, and their mental health. The impact of this will last in to adulthood.

Reading allows children to be transported from their own world to another. Between the pages of a book, they can become immersed in the lives of fictional characters and learn about a culture entirely different from their own. They can also learn new words and phrases, experience a range of emotions, and develop empathy.

Reading is also necessary for learning, so instilling a love of reading at an early age is the key that unlocks the door to lifelong learning. Reading aloud presents books as sources of pleasant, entertaining, and exciting formative experiences for children to remember in their long term memory.

Because of the learning potential, the effects of reading on child development are vast and multiple studies have highlighted its benefits. As such, teachers and parents are in a great position to ensure reading is a key part of children's daily routine.

In School

In school we ensure that books are an integral part of every day. Each year group has core texts that we read to children regularly, so that the children begin to know the books by heart. This means that by the time a child has progressed from Nursery through to Year 2, they will know and may possibly be able to read 40 high quality texts. We also select the books we use for English carefully, so they are of the best quality. These books form the basis for all our topic work. Alongside this we only choose the best quality of texts to have in our book corners. We have a library van visit us termly, and have unlimited access to Nottinghamshire Library to enhance our book collections. Each class also has a poetry book and within school we practise poems to perform to each other and to enjoy.

Last year, the parents group worked together to enable us to have a new library area. Children will be using this to choose their sharing books to bring home. Throughout the year we also have story telling experiences, book theme days and other enhancements to show children that books are fun.

We teach the children to read independently through our phonic scheme and our reading practice sessions. We offer extra reading intervention, for children who need it and target children through the use of reading volunteers.

Reading at home

As Parent and Carers, you play a vital role in supporting your child in learning to read by reading with them at home children. It is here that children get the extra practise they need to enable them to read fluently. Reading a real picture book or sharing book with an adult will impact on your child's understanding of story structures, and develop their grammar and vocabulary. This in turn, develops their own writing skills. But more importantly, reading at home, contributes to developing a love of reading for pleasure which impacts on mental health and wellbeing.

Each week your child will bring home, a Big Cat phonics book. They will have already read this book 2 or 3 times in school, as part of group reading practise sessions. So, by the time the book comes home, your child will be very familiar with it and may need little help to read it. They will also bring a sharing book that they have chosen for themselves.

We strongly recommend that you hear your child read either the whole or part their phonics books 2-3 times a week, and that you share a book with a child as often as you can. The more you do this, the more your child will want to read as they will begin to make the move from finding reading taxing to becoming fluent readers.

To accompany the books , we will also send home a weekly sheet which informs you of the phonics we have been learning that week. Practising phonics using this sheet will help your child to become more confident with phonics.

Home Reading Diaries

We are aware that the Home Reading Diaries are not always used as well as they could be. Last term we introduced a time for teachers to check reading diaries and establish whether a child is reading at home. We will continue with this moving forward. We feel that this is important, so that we can support parents with reading at home, especially if their child is a reluctant reader. By checking the diaries, we are showing the children, that we value the work they do at home and how important it is that they practise their independent reading and also listen to and talk about sharing books.

New Style Diaries

This year, we have changed the reading diaries slightly in order to make them more interactive and engaging.

We have added an Autumn, Spring and Summer challenge which we are hoping the children will complete over each term. Every few weeks, we have added an activity page, where children can complete a short task either independently or with help from an adult. We have also added some colouring pages for them to complete during the holidays. At the back of the diary, we have added some new information pages.

We want the children to really enjoy using the diaries, to take ownership of them and to be proud of their achievements. We want them to be able to see the progress they have made over the year, and to see the diaries as an integral part of learning to read.

If you would like to know more as to some of the benefits of reading in children and adults, I would like to recommend a pod cast by Michael Mosley called "Just One Thing - Reading".

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m00187ws>

Thank you for your continued support

Yours sincerely

Janine Barratt