

How is reading taught at Loughton School?

We teach reading in a variety of ways here at Loughton School. Our aim is to enthuse children's thirst for books and to help them become lifelong lovers of reading.

Our reading curriculum includes:

- Guided reading – Every day we teach a discrete reading lesson in which a teacher will work with a small group of children. Throughout the week, the teacher will work at least once with every child. They will ask questions to check understanding and build on skills that the children already have. Whilst the teacher is working with a group the other children have a variety of tasks to be getting on with. Some children will have a pre-group task (such as reading the text ready for the session with the teacher or creating questions on the text that they can then discuss in their guided session). Others will have a follow up activity (such as creating a character synopsis or finding synonyms of simple words they find).
- Regular independent reading – Children are given the opportunity to read every day with us. Children can read their chosen reading book (that is aimed at the level they are currently working at) or each classroom has a variety of books for children to choose freely.
- Group and paired – Some children need a little extra help with their reading and we use our teaching assistants and senior teachers to take groups or pairs of children to read with. The activities are similar to those run in guided sessions with your child's class teacher.
- Home/school reading - A huge thank you for hearing your children read. The expectation at Loughton is for children to read 5 times per week and record this in their home school diary. It is really important to comment in your child's reading

record as a way of communicating between home and school about some of the following:

- *Whether they enjoyed or disliked reading that time.*
- *What you discussed during the session.*
- *What they found easy or tricky.*
- e.g. Susan loved reading this book with me. We talked about how the princess felt when she was lost.
Tricky words: palace, eventually. Page 28 next.
- Hearing books read aloud on a regular basis – The school's timetable has set aside a short session after lunch in which your child's teacher will tell them a story. This may be a short, picture book story or a longer chapter book. Some teachers may even make stories up together with the children!
- Selecting their own choice of texts – Each year group has a large selection of books at various levels and your child's teacher will be monitoring their reading ability to ensure they are taking books that are aimed at their level. We encourage the children to rotate between fiction and non-fiction to ensure a varied diet of books. Children also visit the school library weekly and have a choice of books that they can borrow. The library also has a small selection of audio books for children to borrow.
- E-books – We have signed up to the library's e-book service which allows all children to access books electronically in the classroom.
- Library visits, author & poet visits – Mark Neil, a local poet, regularly comes to school to present assemblies and to work with various groups of children. We also have visitors from the local library service who read book extracts to children in assemblies. This is a very enriching experience for all the children and there is a real buzz whenever these visitors are in.

- Newspapers – We receive weekly editions of First News, a children’s newspaper, which is used during guided reading sessions.
- LS News – The children write and produce the school newspaper which is published once a term. The children are very enthusiastic about the newspaper and take great pride in seeing their work printed on the page. Each class are given several copies that the children can then read during independent reading session.
- Christmas books – Every year each class are sent a present of a new Christmas book which generates a lot of excitement with the children.
- Take one book – A project currently being run in year 6 where a book is chosen (from a variety of genres) and the children create a variety of texts based on the book. This allows children to see the clear link between reading and writing and to produce some wonderful pieces of work.
- Read, Write, Ink – For those children who need a boost we run an intervention to help them using reading to improve their writing. This is a very successful scheme and has had a great impact on all the children involved.
- Book fair – Twice a year we run a school book fair that always raises money for the school to purchase new books. This year various groups of children helped to choose the books they wanted for their year groups.
- We have a close relationship with Mark Niel, MK Poet Laureate, who regularly visits the children in assemblies to inspire them with his writing on popular themes. He has also held workshops with children inspiring their own poetry writing.

As parents you are your child's most influential teacher with an important part to play in helping your child to learn to read and then to carry on that love of reading for life!! If you have any ideas that would help the school raise the profile of reading please talk with your child's class teacher or to Mr Malloch, the school's reading co-ordinator.