



Reading at Loughton 2018-2019

We teach reading in a variety of ways at Loughton School. We aim to develop children's passion for reading and help them become lifelong lovers of reading.

Our reading curriculum includes:

Guided reading – During dedicated sessions, we teach reading discretely. Throughout the week, the teacher will work with all of the children. They will ask questions to check understanding and build on skills that the children already have. The teaching of reading currently takes place in a variety of ways. Some sessions will entail the teacher working with a group, while 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). Other sessions will take the form of a whole class guided read. This is not all of the children reading together all of the time. Rather, the whole class takes small steps in learning together. Those children who grasp reading concepts more quickly will be encouraged to take their learning to a deeper level of understanding. This style of lesson ensures all children take part in all of the lessons all of the time. No reader is then left behind.

Regular independent reading – Children are given the opportunity to read every day with us. Children can read their chosen reading book (which is aimed at where they are in their learning journey), a self-selected book from those available in school, or a book they are enjoying from home.

Group and paired reading – Some children need a little extra help with their reading. We facilitate the progress of these children by allowing extra adult time to take groups or pairs of children to read with. The activities may be similar to those run in guided sessions with your child's class teacher or a specific program designed to improve their skills.

Home/school reading – The contribution you make to your child's love of reading at home is very important. At Loughton, we believe that for optimal outcomes children should read at home 5 times per week and you should record this in their reading record. You could 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.”*

Selecting their own choice of texts – Each year group has a large selection of books at various Age Related Expectations and degrees of difficulty. Your child’s teacher will be monitoring their reading skills to ensure they are taking books that are aimed at where they are on their reading journey. 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.

Library visits – the children benefit from visits to and from Milton Keynes library. The visitors from the local library service read book extracts to children and bring reading to life in class time and during assemblies.

Author visits – All year groups benefit from an author visit during the year.

Extra-Curricular opportunities – For those children that want to experience a variety of genres, we offer an extra-curricular comic club. The children are invited to experience and explore a variety of appropriate comics both independently and as part of the group. They can then use their experience to inspire their own comic writing.

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 them 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 – This is 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, Inc. – For those children who need a boost we run an intervention to help them use 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 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.

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 Miss Martignetti, the school's reading co-ordinator.