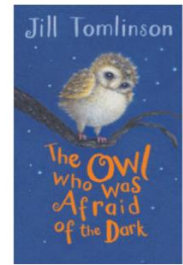


How is reading taught at Stratford?



Early reading

In Reception and Year 1, all children take part in daily phonics lessons. We follow the phonic scheme **ELS** (Essential Letters and Sounds). The lessons teach the 'code' of reading and children are heard daily reading words and sentences containing the sounds they are being taught.

In Year 2, phonics knowledge is practised and used in daily spelling sessions, children are heard read, daily, using the words and sentences containing the spelling patterns being taught.

Children practise reading using fully decodable books that are closely matched to their developing phonic level. Reading books are closely matched to the phonics programme and are grouped accordingly.

Regular reading sessions either in groups, pairs or individually focus on the 3 main skills of reading:

- Decoding (using their phonics knowledge to sound out unknown words)
- Comprehension (understanding the text they are reading)
- Prosody (reading with expression)

By the end of Key Stage 1, we want all our pupils to be able to read aloud age-appropriate texts with fluency, speed and expression.

Reading in Key Stage 2

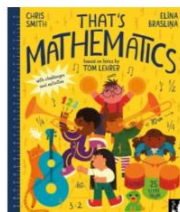
In Year 3 to Year 6, children take part in Whole Class Reading lessons. The class read through a carefully selected chapter book together. Reading is modelled by the teacher, who reads with them. The children follow along reading aloud. Passages are often re-read and themes, vocabulary and ideas within the book are discussed, as a class, to support understanding and fluency.

In addition to these reading lessons the children are always reading! They read in all subjects, they have time to read their own reading books or read and share books that are available in school. All classes also have a daily story time where they are read aloud to by the teacher. Again, these books are very carefully chosen so that the children experience good quality texts.

How often does my child read in school?

Every day! Reading is such an integral part of the curriculum, and we read in so many ways (for example in phonics and whole class reading). This means that your child is heard read every day.

We do try to hear children read one to one, but because of the demands on the curriculum, we try to incorporate hearing them into lessons instead. We have a wonderful group of volunteers that come in and listen to children individually. We prioritise those children that need practise and support with their reading.



How can I support my child's reading at home?

Reading at home in reception and Key Stage 1 (Butterfly and Owl Classes)

Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by helping them to practice at home.

There are two types of reading book that your child may bring home:

A phonics book – This will be at the correct phonic stage for your child. They should be able to read this fluently and independently. This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy – your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading.

Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise – celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them. After they have finished, talk about the book together. If your child is having to 'sound out' lots of words in the book, then it is too difficult for them – please get in touch with your child's teacher. We ask that you read with your child individually so that they can practise all of the skills they have been taught within lessons. The more your child reads, the better their reading will become. Please make sure that reading is recorded so that your child can achieve 'Star Reader'.

At present, **the expectation at Stratford is that every child reads, at home, 5 times a week.** Each read should be recorded in their yellow reading record. Each week the teacher reviews the reading records. If 5 reads are achieved, they are a 'Star Reader'. They received a Gold Reading Award for the term if this is achieved every week, a Silver Reading Award if one week is missed and an improvement award for reading more than last term.

A reading for pleasure book – Your child will not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together.

The Stratford we have a fantastic selection of books that represent the very best of children's literature. Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

Reading at Home – KS2

It is vital that children continue to read and be read to at home throughout KS2. Sharing books, both fiction and non-fiction helps develop vocabulary, helps to broaden their knowledge of the world and the people in it as well as fostering a love of books and reading. Often children in key stage 2 like to read to themselves and this is good for them. You can still help. Talk to them about the books they've read after they have finished it, what was their favourite bit and why? Would they recommend it to others? Was there any new vocabulary they read? Do they want to read more by that author? Of course there are lots of other ways to read. Children may read a newspaper or magazine/comic, a recipe book or even the football scores on the TV! Reading and talking to our children about books and reading is vital if we want our children to read for pleasure.

