

Reading at Newsham Primary School



At Newsham our principal aim in teaching reading is to develop independent readers who are capable of accessing sophisticated texts and are able to make informed reading choices for both academic and personal reading. To achieve this, pupils need to experience engaging, well written, thoughtfully designed, expertly illustrated books and other resources. We have developed a text-centred English curriculum that places high quality literature at the heart of learning and is delivered through quality first teaching approaches, which are proven to raise engagement and attainment in reading and writing.

In Early Years and Key Stage 1, children learn to read through a synthetic phonics programme called [Little Wandle](#). As well as this, the children are exposed to high quality texts from our [Newsham Primary School Reading Spine](#) in sessions. They also have exposure to and access to our extensive library.

In KS2, our children are exposed to a wide range of text types, genres and authors. Guided reading and whole class reading sessions use books that have been assigned by year group and there are also some transitional books that work well between year groups. We also provide more accessible and more challenging texts in each year group indicated in the description of the books. The books are increasingly sophisticated as we move up through the year groups. The selected texts build in knowledge of new text types and new writers, whilst keeping our literacy heritage running as a thread through it all.

Reading for pleasure opens up new worlds for children and gives them the opportunity to use their imagination to explore new ideas, visit new places and meet new characters. Reading for pleasure also improves children's well-being and empathy. It helps them to understand their own identity, and gives them an insight into the world and the views of others. At Newsham we actively promote reading for pleasure through our wonderful school library which is open to pupils throughout the school day, and after school where we welcome families. Our Accelerated Reader programme also encourages reading for pleasure where children can select books of their choosing and interest within a given age-appropriate range.

Children in KS2 also have home school reading books that are carefully selected from our high-quality reading scheme using robust assessment systems. Children will read to an adult each week on a 1:1 basis as well as daily reading in all areas of the curriculum.

