

How We Teach Reading

At Farthinghoe School, we aim to immerse children in a rich and stimulating reading environment, where books are valued, shared and enjoyed by all.

When children enter the Foundation Stage they are given the opportunity to select from a variety of books to share with their family. Through the daily phonics teaching, the children quickly learn sets of sounds and key words to enable them to segment and blend words for reading. In addition to this, the children read with an adult at least three times a week, either individually or as a group, where they have the opportunity to talk about books, use the vocabulary related to books and to ask and answer questions.

In the initial stages of learning to read the adult reads the text, pointing to the text as they do so, discussing the illustrations and asking the child for suggestions about what might be happening on each page. Through doing this the children begin to understand that text conveys meaning and that there is a relationship between the text and illustrations. As the children's word phonic knowledge develops, they are encouraged to 'have a go' at sounding out words or spotting high frequency words that they have learnt. They are also encouraged to re-read words to develop familiarity and fluency with key texts.

This structure continues throughout Key Stage 1. The children select up to four books each week that are colour banded and derived from a wide selection of available resources including specifically produced reading scheme books and digital resources. As the children become more confident in decoding, the focus is on reading for enjoyment and reading comprehension.

Over the course of a week, the children will have the opportunity to either read quietly to themselves, to an adult, to other children (Buddy Reading), in a group or out loud to the whole class. During focused lessons the children will be able to explore specific features of both fiction and non-fiction texts, consider the structure of language and develop and use an increasing range of vocabulary.