Reading in EY and KS1

We believe that developing a love of reading from an early age is encouraging is key to ensuring success as a reader. In EY and Y1 children have a daily ‘synthetic phonics’ session based on the Letters and Sounds programme. This is aimed at teaching children to become skilled word readers by enabling them to recognise each of the 44 sounds in the phonological alphabet and use this knowledge to decode words fluently.

Reading is introduced through shared stories and discussion so children can explore the layout and structure of books, hear and join in with story language, discuss characters and plot and make predictions to support a developing love of books. Books form the basis of activities in the different areas of learning throughout EY. When appropriate, children are introduced to our reading scheme and begin to share books individually with an adult.

Our early reading scheme is organised into coloured book bands. This scheme draws texts from a range of sources and is aimed at supporting children to apply their developing phonics understanding to become skilled word readers. Children progress through the book bands as their word reading and basic comprehension skills develop.

Book bands up to orange level start with Floppy’s Phonics Fiction and Non Fiction texts, to support children in their phonics learning. Once children have developed secure decoding skills at orange book band, they will move to our Accelerated Reader system. They will then choose from a wide range of texts aimed at allowing children to explore their interests and develop their love of reading.