

WOODFALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

EARLY READING AND PHONICS CURRICULUM STATEMENT

“Reading opens the door to learning. A child who reads a lot will become a good reader. A good reader will be able to read more challenging material. A child who reads challenging material is a child who will learn. The more a child learns, the more he or she will want to find out.”

“Reading is the key that unlocks the whole curriculum.”

At Woodfall Primary School we aim to develop the full potential of all our pupils as confident, enthusiastic readers. If children are to develop as competent readers, it is vitally important that they have a secure understanding of the letter sounds and spelling system of the English language. Phonic skills need to be developed in a systematic way, based on a staged approach. Reading is a complex skill with many components and we have therefore adopted a consistent approach to the teaching of these skills throughout the school. We believe that Reading is a valuable and rewarding experience and that the importance of laying a firm foundation in this crucial area will enable our children to become enthusiastic, independent, and reflective readers.

At Woodfall, our Reading and Phonics teaching is based on the requirements of The National Curriculum 2014 and the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. To support us in delivering these requirements, we have introduced a synthetic phonics programme called Read Write Inc. to the children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. This is a fun, systematic and interactive phonics scheme that aims to get every child reading quickly and confidently. Daily RWI lessons are taught in Foundation Stage 2. In Key Stage 1, children have 4 RWI lessons a week. Children are grouped for their Phonics and Reading groups and children work with others at the same stage. Staff continuously monitor these groups, assess children regularly and change the child's group, if necessary.

Reading and Phonics are not only taught as discrete lessons. Children are given many opportunities to practise their reading and phonics skills throughout the day, to embed reading in a range of contexts, demonstrating to children the impact of reading in every aspect of life. Success in Reading will have a direct impact upon progress in all other areas of the curriculum and will be crucial in developing our children socially and academically, both during their time at Woodfall Primary School and in their future lives.

It is vital that children also receive support with their reading at home to help them progress with their reading journey. Children are encouraged to read their school reading books regularly as well as library books, books that they have at home, magazines, signs when they out and about, etc. For children that need further support with their reading, we provide opportunities in school for one-to-one reading with an adult in addition to Guided Reading sessions.