



Appleton C.E. (A) Primary School Approach to Reading and Phonics

We aim for our children to be enthusiastic readers who are able to:

- Perceive reading as a pleasurable and enjoyable activity
- Use reading to support other learning
- Perceive reading as a purposeful, lifelong skill
- Use a range of reading strategies to help them with unfamiliar texts, enabling them to become independent readers
- Become knowledgeable about authors, illustrators, different genres and styles.

We have a wealth of children's literature in school, ranging from poetry, classic and modern fiction, picture books and non fiction texts. In addition to these we have structured reading scheme books, big books, stories on CD and the IWB and a range of resources to support reading.

The children will learn how books work and be able to differentiate between print and pictures. They will be encouraged to retell stories and to begin to use appropriate story language. Pre-reading skills will be built on. These will help children to match patterns, follow sequences, build up both visual and auditory memory and use picture clues to infer meaning. Children will be encouraged to share their own favourite books and explain why they like them. From Foundation Stage they will begin to identify non fiction text and use it to support their learning.

Phonic Skills:

At Appleton School the children will follow a systematic approach to teaching phonic skills. We use 'Letters and Sounds'. This is supplemented by other phonic schemes and activities. The programme of work teaches children to develop a knowledge of letter sounds, how to blend sounds and build and decode words. Children will also begin to recognise key sight vocabulary often known as, 'tricky' words. This includes words such as 'said' which cannot be sounded out.

Development of skills:

Children are taught to employ a broad range of reading strategies enabling them to grow in independence. As their skills progress they will be encouraged to increase their repertoire of texts and they will begin to make critical judgements about these texts. They will experience 'real' books, poetry, non-fiction, reading scheme books and other print media. They will develop a growing knowledge and understanding of the conventions of non-fiction. For example: contents, index, diagrams, headings and glossaries.

Overall the children will be encouraged to read for pleasure and purpose. They will develop the confidence to read independently and fluently, understanding how punctuation is used to add meaning. From Foundation Stage, children will discuss the feelings of characters and why these characters act in a particular way. From Year One, group reading is used to ensure that children understand the text and can articulate their responses to it. They will begin to understand inference and figurative language and subtle meanings within the text.

Teachers share books with their class which brings the children into contact with a wide range of children's literature and ensures that they are hearing more complex language structures and storylines than they may be able to read for themselves. It also emphasises reading for pleasure and relaxation. Many stories and poems will be brought to life through the use of story sacks, story trays, drama and role play activities.

We are developing our new library to include fiction as well as non-fiction books. This will enable children to have a wider variety of books to read within school and to borrow and take home to share with their parents or read independently.

Reading at Home:

All children will take home a variety of reading books. From Foundation Stage these books will be linked to the children's phonological knowledge. As they progress, colour coded books will be introduced from reading schemes, including Oxford Reading Tree, Collins Big Cat Phonics, Oxford Literacy Web, Pearson Phonics Bug and a variety of other non-scheme books. We take an individualised approach to the teaching of reading so children can progress according to their needs, interests and ability.

We place great importance on the help which parents can give their children by reading with them and to them at home. We encourage parents to come into school to assist with reading practice within any year group. We provide information for parents and in parents meetings we discuss ways to support their child.

Resources:

Big books

Guided reading books

Reading Scheme books

Picture books

Non-Fiction books

Fiction books

Poems

Plays

Dictionaries/Thesaurus/Atlases

First News

ICT - DVDs involving reading skills, reading text with story CDs, reading text from research on the computer.

Environmental print and classroom displays

Adopted 21.2.2013

.....