

“The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”

– Dr. Seuss, "I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!"

At Manor Park CE First School, we truly understand the importance of helping our children to become fluent and confident readers as these skills not only help them to access all areas of the school curriculum but will be invaluable in adult life. We also try to inspire a love of books and encourage reading for pleasure.

PHONICS

We teach children to read through the systematic teaching of synthetic phonics. In Reception and KS1, we use the Read Write Inc scheme and the children work in small groups according to their specific phonic knowledge and ability. The children’s progress and attainment is rigorously monitored by Teachers and Teaching Assistants and the English leaders in school assess every child on a half termly basis to ensure that the planning is meeting the needs of every child. However, we are all aware that children develop at different rates and therefore, extra interventions are put into place to boost children’s learning and help them to achieve their full potential where needed, such as extra reading with an adult or 1:1 Read Write Inc sessions.

The phonics sounds are split into 3 sets.

First, the children learn to read Set 1 sounds. These are sounds written with one letter: m a s d t i n p g o c k u b f e l h r j v y w z x and sounds written with two letters (your child will call these ‘special friends’): sh th ch qu ng nk ck

The children learn to recognise and write a new sound each day and soon start to blend two or three sounds together to read and write simple words. Alongside the sounds (phonemes) that the children learn, we also introduce them to tricky words (red words) which are not spelt phonetically. These are very common words that the children learn to read and spell in order to help them access a range of reading materials.

Then they learn Set 2 sounds: ay ee igh ow oo oo ar or air ir ou oy

Once the children are familiar with these sounds, they can read a large variety of words and can have a go at writing almost any word phonetically.

Finally, the children will learn Set 3 sounds: ea oi a-e i-e o-e u-e aw are ur er ow ai oa ew ire ear ure

This is where the children learn a range of alternative spellings for each sound and begin to learn reading and spelling strategies to help them to make informed choices about which sound to use in a word and why.

In KS2, we follow the ‘No Nonsense’ spelling scheme. Discrete spelling lessons are taught once a week and then the spelling focus for the week is revisited and

practised during the week. The children are taught a number of spelling strategies and are encouraged to find the method that ‘suits their learning style’. Spellings are assessed through weekly dictations.

DAILY CLASS READING

All the staff at Manor Park CE First School are passionate about fostering a love of reading in all of our children. Every day the whole school take part in a class ‘Book Talk’ session. Once again we ensure that a range of texts, often cross curricular, are chosen. This daily reading to the children ensures that all children receive a ‘high quality reading diet’. High quality discussions take place and key words from the texts are discussed with the children to develop children’s language acquisition.

GUIDED READING

“The greatest gift is a passion for reading.”

– Elizabeth Hardwick

In addition to the phonics and Read Write Inc sessions, all children at Manor Park CE First School have a discrete Guided Reading session at least once a week. The children work in ability groups and plans are differentiated to meet the needs of each group. Each session starts with a ‘hook’ to get the children excited about the book they are about to read and to get them thinking about what the book might be about. We teach the children reading strategies so that they can begin to decode challenging words with increasing independence and we also teach them comprehension skills so that they can understand not only what is obviously written on the page but begin to read between the lines and deduce what the author is trying to say. These skills are also reinforced during Literacy and Topic sessions through shared reading and text analysis.

Our Guided Reading resources consist mainly of reading scheme books from Rigby Star Phonics, Rigby Star and Oxford University Press and the children have access to a wide variety of text types - fiction, non-fiction, plays, poems etc. We use the Rigby Star Phonics readers where children can decode the majority of the text with their phonics skills alongside books that contain a large amount of tricky words that the children need to be able to recognise by sight. The books are organised using the Book Bands system and within these bands, we also have ‘real books’ which have been assessed as being the same level of difficulty. In addition, once children are working on Set 2 sounds in Phonics, they will also bring home a Read Write Inc reading book which they will have worked on extensively in class and should be able to read fluently.

In Key Stage 2 Guided Reading Sessions happen 3 or 4 times a week. During this time two groups learn with an adult on a set text. We have a wide range of high quality texts, both non fiction and fiction. Sometimes the children will be reading an extract, others a whole book (over a number of sessions). The focus when reading with an adult is the discussion about the shared text. Children are asked key questions and are taught how to use the text to support their answers. The other groups in the class carry out “reading activities” independently. These may

include follow up tasks specific to the current text, comprehension activities or reading from a “special” box of books.

The children’s reading books are sent home along with their Reading Record books where both staff and parents/carers can comment on the children’s progress. We actively encourage children to read regularly both at home and at school and we are very lucky that we have many parent helpers who regularly come in and listen to children read. Volunteer readers are trained by the school and use a “reading kit” to support strategies used to develop reading skills. We also work with the Dorset Reading Partnership to provide even more opportunities for children to read with an adult.

LIBRARY AND BOOK CORNERS

Every class at Manor Park has a timetabled slot in which they have the chance to visit the school library and choose a book that they would like to take home. This book can be at any level as it is designed to be shared with a parent or older sibling at home. The library stock is constantly updated to meet the needs of the children and ensure that they have access to a wide range of high quality and up-to-date reading materials. There are also teddy bears in the library for them to read to.

All classrooms have a well-stocked Book Corner which is a cosy and comfortable place where children can relax with a book and escape to another world. We also have a range of story sacks and boxes with tactile resources that the children can use to enhance their enjoyment of the text.