

Rack House Primary School

Phonics

In Foundation Stage and Key Stage One Phonics is taught daily outside the English lesson. Children are set for the teaching of phonics according to their stage not age. All phonics lessons follow a four part lesson including time to revisit, teach and model, practise and investigate and assess and apply. The school follows the "Letters and Sounds" programme and children undertake the Phonics Screening Test in Year One. Children in Year Two and Key Stage Two build upon their phonic knowledge and move on to working from the "Support for Spelling" document.

Reading

Pupils at Rack House have access to a wide range of reading opportunities that include Shared Reading, Guided Reading, Independent Reading, Home/school reading, listening to books read aloud, reading whole class books and reading with partners or buddies. The whole school has a DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) session for fifteen minutes a week where children in every class are given the opportunity to read for pleasure.

Guided Reading is taught daily outside the English lesson. A clear four part lesson is delivered including a book introduction, walkthrough, independent reading and return/response to text. Children are grouped according to ability and when not reading with an adult the children are given a purposeful reading activity to complete independently. All children reading below level three receive two adult led Guided Reading sessions each week. Guided Reading texts are chosen to challenge the children and are based on a 90% accuracy rate. Please see the school's "Guided Reading the Rack House Way" document.

The books that children take home for home/school reading are intended to be one reading band below the books that they are reading in Guided Reading (with adult support.) Children should be able to read these books independently and they are intended to allow the children a chance to practice their fluency, expression and further their understanding and comprehension. Reading at home is promoted throughout the school with a weekly Reading Raffle. Each time children read at home they are given a raffle ticket which is then entered into a Key Stage draw. Winners of the Reading Raffle are invited to choose a book of their choice as a prize.

Writing

Pupils at Rack House are taken on a writing journey. Teachers encourage talk for writing (including drama), analysing text, creating success criteria, planning and drafting and revising and editing. Teachers use Shared Writing to model the writing process and Shared Reading and Writing to provide a context for discussion and demonstration of grammatical features at word, sentence and text level. Activities from "Developing Early Writing" and "Grammar for Writing" are used to support whole class teaching. Writing activities are differentiated and where necessary Guided Writing, collaborative work and peer or adult support is used. The school has a leveled approach detailing the types of sentences that should be taught according to a child's writing level. Please see the school's "Rack House Sentence Types" document. Improvement paper is used to allow children to re-draft and uplevel their writing. Where possible teachers incorporate MAD Time (Make A Difference) into their lessons which also allows children to revise, edit and uplevel their work based on detailed feedback from the teacher.

