

# Uffculme Primary School



## Our Reading Approach



### Early Years Foundation Stage / Year 1

At Uffculme Primary School, we first teach the children to recognise letters, the sounds that they make and then using a 'synthetic phonic approach' which is based on the Letters and Sounds programme, they are taught how the sounds (phonemes) are blended together to read or segmented (broken down) when the children are learning to write.

The class teacher will hear your child read at least once a week. They will also be heard by a teaching assistant. This can be either through a one-to-one situation or through guided reading. Your child may also read in school with other adults.

The majority of children at school are not heard individually however as we use a structured guided reading approach. This allows the children to engage in discussion about what they have read rather than spending individual time in blending and segmenting words. Using this approach children learn to use problem-solving strategies to work out words they don't know, deal with difficult sentence structure and understand concepts or ideas they have never encountered before in print. This also allows children to read according to their needs. Your child's reading diary will be stamped and dated when they read in a guided reading group at school.



The children will also have a reading book which has a coloured sticker on it. These 'sticker books' are to be used alongside the weekly home reading books sent home by the class teacher.

School staff will help your child change their sticker books.

Children will also have the opportunity to read library books within the school day.

We ask that you read/share a book every day (some people prefer mornings) for ten minutes with your child. There is no doubt that this helps progress immensely.

Try to follow your child's interests when reading. Use digital books, comics and magazines to spark their interest in reading. The Oxford Reading Tree website has a wide selection on e-books available:

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page>

### **Beware of the Tricky Words!**

The children will come across words that they cannot sound talk in their reading books. These are called tricky words and are introduced through the phonics programme. If one of these is spotted when you are reading with your child, please do read these words to the children.

The tricky words that the children are learning to read in class are attached to the front of the reading journal.

### **How often should the children read at home?**

We expect the child to read their school reading book at least 3 times a week at home. Children who read regularly at home and who are read to have much greater success in their reading.



### **How do we check/assess children's reading?**

We monitor how often the children read at home through comments that are made in their home school reading diaries.

The children have a guided reading session daily in school for 30 minutes. This is consistent across the Key Stage for each class. Children may need further help and they therefore have one-to-one support allocated to them in school or they may be stretched by reading with children in a different year group if this is the case.



*'Teachers are highly proficient in developing pupils' reading skills. Children gain a good understanding of phonics in the early years. Good practice is maintained through Key Stage 1. Standards of reading across the academy are high.'*

Ofsted March 2015

### **Year 2**

As the children move into Year 2, the reading approach continues in the same pattern. Once the children have become confident readers, they will start the Accelerated Reader (AR) Programme for their independent reading. The programme works by establishing a base line reading level for each pupil and then identifying appropriate books for each child in order to move their independent reading forward.

The children are directed to a book level for their reading age and interest level. Once they have completed the book they take an online quiz which assesses how well they comprehend the book. On the basis of that quiz, the programme then determines whether the child needs to further consolidate their reading at that level or whether they should move forwards to the next level. Ideally, a child reading at an instructional level will achieve 80% in each test before they can move onto more demanding books.

Recommended reading is 15-35 minutes each day and this will also be built into daily morning reading sessions, the guided reading structure or within our homework club. Laptops and tablets are made available for each child in the class when they are ready to complete their online quiz.