

## **Reading and Phonics**

At Monkway we understand the importance of reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar. To develop these skills a variety of approaches to teaching reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar are used:

### **Spelling**

Within school we are working to meet the new curriculum expectations within all areas including spelling. To achieve this we have adopted the Assertive Mentoring spelling system. Each Monday children throughout the school will be given 15 spellings, including the spelling rule, based on their year group. They will be tested on these spellings on a Friday afternoon. They will keep track of their scores and will be awarded with a colour for their achievements. (Green, yellow or red). This recording system is the same system as the Grammar Hammer sessions.

All children will receive an additional spelling session daily from Monday to Thursday. Within these sessions the children will be taught spellings which are addressing their specific personal needs. They will be taught the spelling rules and spellings then tested during the session on a Thursday.

### **Grammar Hammer**

To meet the new curriculum expectations for punctuation and grammar, we have adopted the 'Grammar Hammer' system from Assertive Mentoring.

Each week, the children complete a skills check. Firstly with adult support then independently. They record and keep track of their scores and are awarded with a colour for their achievements. (Green, yellow or red)

## **Whole School Reading Approaches**

### **Independent Reading**

Each child has an independent reading book that they take home to read. We ask parents to read at least 3 nights a week to ensure progression through consolidation of skills. Children also read this book in school to an adult at least twice every week. This is so that the adult can ensure progression in reading through deeper questioning. These questions are recorded in the child's reading record as an on-going assessment of their comprehension skills.

### **Group Reading**

The national curriculum for reading is taught through reading sessions each day. A specific skill from the curriculum is taught and modelled on a Monday. This skill is then worked on, at a differentiated level, throughout the week. The texts chosen for the teaching of these skills are specifically chosen because of their relevance and challenge level to each individual year group.

Following on from Monday's session, the children work on activities at their level, to further consolidate and practise the chosen skill for that week. This can range from working in adult led groups to further inference and deduction skills, independent activities in reading journals, vocabulary hunts, comprehension activities or Lexia for the children who still need help with their phonics and decoding skills.

### **Cracking Comprehension**

Cracking comprehension is a scheme designed to model and teach skills using the Interactive Whiteboard. Teachers are able to display an extract and show the children exactly how to retrieve the correct information, using a highlighting tool. This scheme is also used to inform our assessment of gaps in children's learning and highlights to the child's teacher what their next steps are.

### **Reading and Writing**

Here at Monkwear, we are constantly striving to strengthen the link between reading and writing. During writing lessons, staff will use extracts from both fiction/non-fiction and encourage the children to read them aloud where possible. Where there is an opportunity, writing lessons are based on a challenging and age-appropriate text, and this text is explored through all genres of writing.

### **Reading for Pleasure**

#### **School library**

We have a lovely library in our school that is looked after by our hard-working and dedicated year 6 pupils. The year 6 librarians are very proactive in organising competitions for the children and liaise with the head to decide on the prizes to offer. Each year group have a dedicated lunch time where they can use the library.

#### **Spellbinding**

This year we are taking part in the local libraries spellbinding challenge. Year 5 & 6 pupils have the option to read as many of the specially selected books as possible. For each book they read they gain a sticker on their passport and the choice to go online and submit a book review.

#### **Library Van visit**

We have the library van visit school twice a year. The children really enjoy going onto the van and choosing their own book. The books are then put out in each class so other children have the opportunity to read them.