

Reading

At Northowram, we aim to nurture and promote a love of reading which will stay with children for life.

Nursery children take home a library book home each week and this is a great opportunity for the children to share books with their family. Nursery children have access to a high quality reading area which accessed continually throughout the day. Our Nursery team encourage a love for reading from an early age by delivering two high quality story time sessions per day, which include variety of genres and books that are rich in language.

Reception children take home a wide selection of story books (Oxford Reading Tree, Pearson, Read Write Inc, Dandelion Readers) to expose children to a variety of texts. Reading books are matched to children's Phonics ability to enable children to be successful in what they have read. Children are listened to read at least once a week in a teacher led reading group and on a 1:1 basis. Children work on their fluency and understanding skills in order to progress through the book levels.

Year One pupils follow the Read Write Inc. storybooks which they take home to practice. As the children progress they will move onto PM Benchmark books which the children are able to choose themselves. Across school, children are listened to read regularly and each classroom has their own reading corner to promote a love and appreciation of reading.

As part of our early reading at Northowram, children in Early Years and Year One have daily phonic sessions. From Year 2 upwards, each class has a dedicated independent reading time every day. This time focuses on developing children's decoding and fluency skills but also has a strong emphasis on comprehension. This dedicated time for reading provides opportunities for children to read daily and ensures reading remains high profile across our school.

Reading is embedded into our curriculum at Northowram with reading being taught through English, following our long term plan which is based around sequences of learning being delivered through a range of high-quality texts.

Phonics

At Northowram, children's phonics journey begins in Nursery with children being taught and exposed to the sounds from Phase 1 in 'Letters and Sounds'. During this phase, lots of emphasis is placed on developing children's listening and oral phonics skills. Children begin to listen to and make different sounds around them, such as animal sounds, toy sounds and sounds in spoken language. They also learn how to segment and blend through lots of interactive games and fun activities. Children are immersed in a wide range of nursery rhymes, songs and books to help them extend their growing vocabulary. Their 'Letters and Sounds' journey then continues into Reception with a daily Phonics lesson.

When children enter Year 1, they then progress onto Read Write Inc. phonics which is taught daily throughout Year 1. Children initially focus on learning one sound a day and practice saying the sound, reading and writing words with the sound in. Once the children are confident with the sounds, children begin writing sentences using a range of sounds. In Year

2, children progress to accessing daily spelling session following the Read, Write, Inc. spelling scheme.

Whilst in Early Years, children are initially given picture books to take home and enjoy exploring to promote their oracy skills and understanding of texts. Once more confident with letter sounds and reading, children then take a story book home to read which matches the stage they are currently accessing in Phonics. This continues in Year 1.

Phonics is embedded into all our areas in provision in Early Years and children have access to a wide range of engaging, stimulating resources to support their phonic development and skills.

Spelling

At Northowram, children in Years 2-6 are taught spelling through the Read Write Inc. spelling scheme. It is a fast-paced, fun spelling scheme which reflects the objectives and requirements from the National Curriculum for each year group. Spelling is taught daily in Year 2 to Year 6.

As part of their phonics and spelling sessions, children also learn to read and spell the high frequency words relevant for their phase.



Writing

Writing is embedded into the curriculum at Northowram and children are provided with a wealth of stimulating, creative writing opportunities. Children's writing journey begins in Early Years where children are provided with a wide range of interesting and purposeful mark-making opportunities within provision. As children progress through school, they write for a range of real audiences and purposes and cross-curricular links are utilised wherever possible to embed children's writing skills.

At Northowram, children are taught handwriting following the 'Letter join' handwriting scheme. The whole-class teach children how to join their letters whilst practicing practicing speed and fluency leading to children developing their own personal style.

Letter-join 