



Reading at Chilham St Mary's

Intent

At Chilham St Mary's, we aim to foster a lifelong love of reading in every individual. We believe that reading is a fundamental skill that underpins learning across the entire curriculum, enabling children to engage with the wider world and develop the confidence to achieve.

We strive to provide a balanced and diverse approach to reading, ensuring that pupils cultivate a positive attitude, strong confidence, and a genuine love of literature, while also developing the skills necessary to access, comprehend, and respond to a range of texts.

A variety of engaging and stimulating texts are made accessible through an immersive, topic-led curriculum and through our well-organised, inviting class and school libraries, which cater to a diverse range of abilities. Additionally, every child receives a carefully chosen home reading book to share with parents, supported by reading records to facilitate effective home-school communication.

At Chilham St Mary's, our intention is to plan and teach reading in line with the National Curriculum, ensuring that every individual can develop the skills and passion to read with fluency and understanding. Through our reading curriculum, we aim for children to:

- Read easily, fluently, and with comprehension, both in school and at home.
- Develop the habit of reading widely and frequently, for both pleasure and information.
- Acquire a broad vocabulary, understand grammar, and gain knowledge of linguistic conventions.
- Appreciate a diverse and rich literary heritage.
- Use enquiry and discussion to explore texts, elaborating and explaining their understanding clearly.
- Demonstrate competence in speaking and listening, participating in debate, and delivering formal presentations.
- Build firm foundations in reading that support their academic progress and independent learning, while encouraging risk-taking in their ideas and interpretations.

Implementation:

Reading is taught using the Little Wandle programme throughout EYFS and Year 1. Children read to an adult at least 3 times per week in groups using texts at their individual levels.

From Year 2 to Year 6, we ensure children read appropriately levelled books, selected through Accelerated Reader assessments, and are regularly heard reading by an adult. The bottom 20% of each year group are scheduled to read to an adult daily. Targeted reading interventions are arranged by class teachers and delivered as often as required to support every individual in reaching their full potential.

Our immersive, topic-led curriculum encourages children to read widely, integrating both fiction and non-fiction resources, including leaflets, reports, and digital materials, to promote reading for information and pleasure. A class text is assigned each term to nurture collaborative discussion and shared enjoyment.

To ensure children acquire a wide and diverse vocabulary, as well as knowledge of grammatical and linguistic conventions, our text cycles include a variety of genres, such as fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. Teachers monitor independent reading through Accelerated Reader, guiding children to explore a broad range of texts and genres.

In Key Stage 2, skill-based reading sessions follow both the class novel and extract texts, with children developing comprehension through Literacy Shed VIPERS questions, deepening their understanding of language, structure, and vocabulary.

Through our Chilham Readers comprehension program in KS1 and KS2, children engage in paired and group discussions to enhance their understanding of selected extracts. The use of sentence-stem bookmarks and structured discussion encourages children to articulate their ideas confidently, fostering independent thought and collaborative learning.

Speaking and listening skills are embedded across the reading curriculum, ensuring children can present their ideas, listen actively, and participate in debate. Beyond English lessons, these skills are applied across subjects, allowing children to communicate confidently and engage in enquiry about the wider world.

Impact:

Our reading curriculum ensures that pupils develop a love of reading, fluency, and confidence to achieve. They engage with a variety of diverse texts, fostering conversations about authorial choices, text features, and ideas. The impact of our reading curriculum is evident in:

- EYFS and KS1 phonics assessments
- Reading sessions across EYFS and KS1
- KS2 reading lessons
- Star Reading assessments
- KS2 SATs reading scores

Through this approach, children leave Chilham St Mary's with firm foundations in reading, prepared to be independent learners, capable of risk-taking, and ready to continue their journey of reaching their full potential.