

Reading Newsletter



Why is Reading Important?

Reading is not only an integral part of the curriculum, it is a vital life-skill that contributes to a successful education and beyond.

Through reading, we ensure that children move on to their next venture with the skills, knowledge and values to set them on the path to success.

Children encounter reading in most of the subjects, where they are tasked with reading for knowledge. Studies have found that children perform better in subjects, if they are confident at reading (Millennium Cohort Study) and reading for pleasure is one of the most important predictors of test scores at age 16, regardless of background (OECD). Therefore, it is essential that reading is part of a child's daily activities.

Further, we also believe that by building positive reading habits, a platform for success is being built.

Reading at Sitwell

At Sitwell, we pride ourselves on promoting a love of reading, being of the firm belief that reading is an activity that should be enjoyed, whether that be escaping into a novel or reading non-fiction texts that build up knowledge.

We are proud of the reading offer that we provide; we select books that we know will enthuse children and help further develop their reading skills. Texts are chosen based on the challenge of vocabulary, themes and developments of plot and character.

Reading for Pleasure

As well as offering a wide and varied diet of reading in lessons, there is dedicated story time, where the children listen to the class teacher read. This is a cherished time of the day as it allows children to become immersed in another world.

Our current reading (Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6)



Reading Spine

Since September 2022, we have had a reading spine, which consists of classics, old favourites and new authors, for each year group, replacing the traditional book bands. The reason for this is that we wanted ownership of the books that we want children to read, **ensuring that we meet our school vision of embracing diversity and challenging stereotypes**. We want them to build their knowledge of authors, coming away from what they know; we want them to see different cultures and identities so that they can identify with the character and we want them to use these books to help them with their learning.

The spine is continually reflected upon so that it continues to inspire reading. Please find the link to the Reading Spine below.

[Reading Spine](#)

Looking forward....

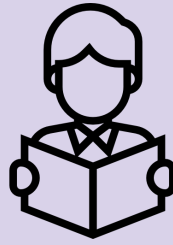
Travelling Books will be in the school library from the 13-16th November. During this time, you are welcome to attend before or after school and look at wide range of books on offer.

Children will spend time there during the week, giving them time to look at books that whet their appetite. It really is lovely to see the buzz around books.

As with anything in the modern world, payments can be made in cash or via the link below:

[Online Payments](#)

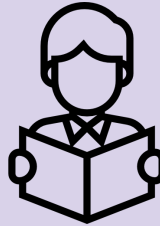
Any child who has read 5 or more books from their year group's reading spine will be entered into a draw to win a £5 voucher to spend at the book fair.



A student who reads for **20 minutes a day** will be exposed to **1.8 million** words per year.



A student who reads for **5 minutes a day** will be exposed to **282,000** words per year.



A student who reads for **1 minute a day** will be exposed to **8,000** words per year.

Reading at Home

Children are regularly reminded about the importance of reading at home; we believe that 10-15 minutes four times a week will further enhance a child's ability to decode, read fluently and help their understanding. Please complete the weekly reading log on Marvellous Me to state if your child has read. Children who read four times a week are given a smile (Years 3, 4 and 5) or it contributes to their perfect star (Year 6).

There are many ways that you can support your child at home, either through reading to them if they are struggling or asking different questions:

- **What impression of the character/place do you have? Why?**
- **What did the actions/speech of the character suggest?**
- **Can you summarise what you have read or learned?**
- **Which word has the same meaning as...?**
- **If you were to draw the setting, what would it look like?**

Book Recommendations

Harley hitch and the Iron Forest

I give the book a 9/10. There is a pupil of the term (like Sitwell) and the child needs to have liquid light for her design. Fenelda gives her liquid fire which blows up her design! Fenelda is then given Pupil of the Term.
Polly - 3KL



Leon, the Extraordinary

Reading this is a must because it is really funny! It's a comic strip, so has lots of good pictures! It is full of interest and surprises!
Esias - 4JB



Dr Maggie's Grand Tour of the Solar System

If you love space, this is the book for you! It has amazing facts like mystery planets, black holes and space junk. This will help you in science!
Yusra - 5TS

The Closest Thing to Flying

I liked this book because it is different and nothing like I have read before: it tells the story of two people from different times.
Saim - 6NE

