



Believe to Achieve! "Roots will grow down into God's love and keep us strong" EPH 3:17

Curriculum Statement for Reading and Phonics

At Brinkworth Earl Danby's we aim to provide a secure, happy and stimulating learning environment in which EVERYONE is valued, spiritual growth is nurtured and potential maximised.

We believe as a community that each child can reach their vocational potential. We believe each child is of unique worth made in the image of God. We believe in each child being the best that they can be and finding their place in the world.

We believe in

- A child's potential
- Being part of a community
- Being the best you can be

Our Christian values of friendship, trust, respect, courage, perseverance, and thankfulness help us build a firm foundation, enabling us to grow into strong people building a better world.

Intent

At Brinkworth Earl Danby's we believe that all our children can become fluent readers and writers. This is why we teach reading through *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised*, which is a systematic and synthetic phonics programme. We start teaching phonics in Reception and follow the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* progression, which ensures children build on their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code, mastering phonics to read and spell as they move through school.

We value reading as a crucial life skill. By the time children leave us, they read confidently for meaning and regularly enjoy reading for pleasure. Our readers are equipped with the tools to tackle unfamiliar vocabulary. We encourage our children to see themselves as readers for both pleasure and purpose.

At Brinkworth Earl Danby's we intend children to:

- become confident, motivated readers;
- have the skills to decode words so they can read fluently, and with good understanding;
- express preferences and opinions about the texts that they read;
- read widely across both fiction and non-fiction for pleasure and information.

Implementation

We believe that phonics provides the foundations of learning to make the development into fluent reading easier. Through phonics children learn to segment words to support their spelling ability and blend sounds to read words. At Brinkworth Earl Danby's the teaching of phonics is of high priority. We use a systematic synthetic phonics programme called *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised*. All children in Reception and KS1 have daily phonics lessons where children have the opportunity to revisit previous learning, practise and apply new skills in a structured progressive way. Children work through the different phases and as they grow in confidence and experience, they are introduced to alternative ways of representing the same sound. This is supported by a comprehensive scheme of phonetically decodable reading books.

Timely intervention is planned for those children who are working below expected levels as soon as their needs are identified. We use the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* assessments to identify the gaps in their phonic knowledge and teach to these using the Keep-up resources – at pace. This continues into Key Stage 2 as necessary. We recognise additional skills and opportunities are also needed for children to achieve the goal of being a well-rounded reader, namely comprehension. We use texts that enable us to create opportunities for reading, discussion, writing and vocabulary acquisition. Children read and enjoy quality fiction, non-fiction texts and poetry, which where possible are linked to their topics across the curriculum.

In whole class/group/guided reading sessions, children develop their key reading skills of decoding, vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval and summarising. Children are taught to relate the text to themselves, previous reading experiences and the world around them. Children also continue to develop their reading fluency skills, building upon their phonics knowledge and understanding.

All classes have a daily 'love of reading' session and participate in a daily class reader, for pleasure, to excite and engage the children, and to expose them to new, varied and rich vocabulary. Children will be given decodable books which match the phonics phase they are working on, moving to free readers when ready. In FS and KS1 children also take home a reading for pleasure/sharing book for parents to share and read with their children.

Impact

What will this look like?

Through the teaching of systematic phonics, our aim is for children to have the skills to decode words in order to be able to read confidently by the end of KS1. Children can then focus on developing fluency and comprehension, applying their knowledge and experience to a range of texts throughout the Key Stage 2 curriculum.

By the time children leave our school, they will be:

- fluent, confident and enthusiastic readers;
- able to access a range of texts for pleasure and enjoyment;
- able to use their reading skills to unlock learning and all areas of the curriculum;
- able to develop their own interest in books with a love of literature across a range of genres cultures and styles;
- able to have made good progress from their starting points in reading.