

Reading at
Cranham C of E Primary
School

Early Reading

Reading is an essential skill. We support all our children in developing the key skills to read successfully, whilst aiming to give them a life long love of reading.

Reading is initially introduced through synthetic phonics. With synthetic phonics children are taught to read letters or groups of letters by saying the sound(s) they represent – so, they are taught that the letter l sounds like llllll when we say it.

Children can then start to read words by blending (synthesising) the sounds together to make a word.

As a school we use Jolly Phonics, and Letters and Sounds to support children in this vital first stage.

We encourage parents to engage regularly at home in order to secure letter recognition and word blending skills, and to practise reading. Our early books are fully decodable.

At the end of Year 1, the children will complete the phonics screening check and results of this will be included in their end of year reports.

Reading Scheme and Beyond

Reading Scheme

Our reading scheme consists of a blend of books from different publishers. **These are banded by phonic phase and progress in difficulty and phonics used as the children progress.**

As children move through the scheme, they will also encounter tricky words that will be needed to be learnt by sight.

Children progress through this scheme at their own pace, but class teachers ensure that they do not tackle books containing aspects of phonics that they have not yet mastered. It is nationally recognised that those children who read regularly at home tend to make quicker progress than those who don't.

Free Readers

Once the children complete the reading scheme, they move onto becoming a 'Free Reader'. Here the children are free to choose their own reading material. We have a well stocked library that we update regularly.

The books in the library are organised by difficulty using the accelerated reader system. They are also allowed to read books of choice from home or local libraries.

Reading Experiences

In Class Experiences

In class we read in a variety of ways.

- **We read to the children daily.** We choose a selection of challenging and well recognised titles appropriate to their age. These give them an insight into stories that may be beyond their personal reading ability.
- **Children read individually** and are frequently heard reading 1:1 by their class teacher, teaching assistants and volunteers.
- We hold **whole class reading sessions.** Here books are chosen to support learning themes in class, new vocabulary is explored and text structures and themes are studied.
- We frequently use a **reciprocal reading** approach to explore texts as a class.

Reciprocal Reading

Reciprocal reading refers to an activity in which pupils become the teacher in small group reading sessions. The pupils are involved in learning within a mixed ability peer group. This can encourage pupils to take a more active role in the learning experience and gain confidence in their own abilities.

Teachers model, then help students learn to guide group discussions using four strategies:

- **Summarising**
- **Questioning**
- **Clarifying**
- **Predicting**

Once students have learned the strategies, they take turns assuming the role of teacher in leading a dialogue about what has been read.

Why use Reciprocal Reading?

- It encourages students to think about their own thought process during reading.
- It helps students learn to be actively involved and monitor their comprehension as they read.
- It teaches students to ask questions during reading and helps to make the text more comprehensible.
- It helps pupils engage with text and read it beyond face value.

Reading Passports

Reading Passports

At Cranham, **we encourage children to participate in a wide range of reading**. This includes reading different genres, books from other cultures and reading in different contexts, such as online. Children are given a reading passport to complete each year. The passport contains suggested titles to read and opportunities to record their wider reading. Completed passports are celebrated in school. Passports are a paper folded A5 Booklet. There are 2 versions per year group.



School reading Champions

Reading Champions

Each year children are celebrated for their achievements in their reading. This can be through class teacher nominations for weekly certificates, School Values Pebbles for perseverance, or the opportunity to become a member of the School Library Team.

In addition to these opportunities, **children can be put forward to being awarded the title of 'School reading Champion'**. This award is presented at the end of year service and a trophy is awarded to each nominee and a trophy with their name on is displayed in school.

Reading champions are the ambassadors for reading in the school. They will have the opportunity to take leading roles in suggesting new titles for the library, to reading to other pupils in school, or even filming story time to share on our school Dojo page.

Online Resources

Online Reading

We currently have pupil subscriptions for Rapid Read, and encourage children to access sites such as 'Teach my Monster to Read' & 'Oxford Owl' to supplement their reading experiences.