



Northway Infant & Carrant Brook Junior Schools

#togetherweSHINE



READING Intent, Implementation and Impact

Intent & Implementation

It is our intent at Northway Infants and Carrant Brook Junior School to provide all of our children with a high-quality education in Reading, underpinned by expert knowledge of the EYFS and the National Curriculum. Our pupils develop a love of reading and a deep understanding of texts, helping them to access and engage with the wider world. We build on the children's cultural capital so that their knowledge of language, stories and ideas broadens, increasing their comprehension, critical thinking skills and also love of reading. As part of *Two Schools, One Community*, we create ambitious opportunities for all children, including those who are disadvantaged, have SEND, or face social and communication barriers. When children leave Carrant Brook, they will have the confidence to explore a wide range of texts with curiosity and ambition. Strong reading skills enable them to communicate effectively, access knowledge, participate fully and thrive in society. By the end of their primary journey, children will be engaged, resilient learners, prepared to continue their reading development at secondary school and beyond.

Pupils begin their reading journey in the Early Years by learning phonics through the Read Write Inc programme. We also follow the GLA approach using 'Echo Reading' to develop fluency, expression and intonation. The Pearson Bug Club Comprehension guided reading programme is then used at Carrant Brook to develop a deeper understanding of texts through a talk-based approach. It follows a structured teaching cycle to provide an in-depth and consistent focus on comprehension, implemented in line with intentions and aligned with the National Curriculum. Reading instruction centres around a single text for the whole class, ensuring that all children engage with the same material regardless of their decoding ability. In addition to Pearson, we follow the GLA-agreed approach, teaching through Readers' Theatre to further enhance engagement, develop comprehension and increase reading fluency.

[See our SHINE Wider Reading Strategy here](#)

Community Connections

We actively promote reading beyond the classroom through strong links with the local community. Pupils benefit from visits to the library, local authors and storytellers, and participation in events such as the Cheltenham Literature Festival and oracy competitions within the Tewkesbury District Partnership. Children are encouraged to share their own writing and reading with others, for example by performing poems and stories to preschool children, acting as reading buddies with younger classes or feeder preschool, or taking part in community coffee mornings in the hub. We also enrich pupils' experiences through initiatives such as a book swap station, taking part in World Book Day and seasonal reading challenges, such as Easter and Christmas activities, which invite families to read together, and theatre groups performing story or book adaptations, all of which help to foster a lifelong love of reading.

Enrichment and Cultural Capital

Reading is not just about developing technical skills: it opens doors to new worlds, ideas and perspectives. Our curriculum is enriched with a wide variety of high-quality texts, opportunities to engage with authors and experiences that celebrate literature in diverse forms.

Through enrichment such as themed days, book weeks, storytelling, drama and performance or visits to Literature festivals, pupils gain meaningful experiences that build their cultural capital and deepen their appreciation of diversity. These opportunities are especially valuable for disadvantaged pupils and those with SEND or social and communication barriers, as they provide inclusive and engaging ways to access and enjoy reading.

There are many opportunities to promote reading for pleasure from Christmas Reading Elves, Story Sacks, Favourite Five Books and Remarkable Reading where parents are invited to share books in the library.

Two Schools One Community Opportunities

At Northway Infants, pupils are introduced to reading through phonics and early reading enrichment, which builds confidence, enjoyment and enthusiasm. As children progress into Carrant Brook, this foundation is developed further through more complex texts and deeper comprehension work, ensuring continuity and progression. Both schools provide opportunities for pupils to share experiences such as Christmas performances and buddy reading, where older pupils support younger readers, acting as role models and encouraging confidence and fluency. These shared opportunities strengthen relationships across year groups and foster a love of reading. Whole-school events, such as World Book Day, book fairs, or shared storytelling activities and author visits also bring pupils from both schools together to celebrate reading and reinforce their shared identity as part of *Two Schools, One Community*.

British Values

- ✓ Democracy - reading gives pupils access to different perspectives, ideas and experiences. Discussions about texts, characters and themes allow pupils to consider multiple viewpoints and appreciate the value of sharing opinions respectfully. These principles are reinforced through whole-school assemblies and disciplinary reading across the curriculum.
- ✓ Mutual Respect - through exploring diverse texts, pupils encounter different beliefs, traditions and lifestyles, which fosters respect for others and their experiences.
- ✓ Tolerance - engaging with a wide range of literature and authors increases children's awareness of life in different communities and cultures. Reading builds empathy, challenges stereotype and encourages understanding and tolerance. These themes are also explored through assemblies and disciplinary texts.
- ✓ The Rule of Law - texts provide opportunities to discuss rules, laws and social expectations in different contexts, encouraging pupils to reflect on how structure and fairness operate in society.
- ✓ Individual Liberty - reading empowers pupils to express themselves, make informed choices and explore ideas independently, giving them confidence to think critically and communicate effectively.

#togetherweSHINE

Safe - the classroom is a safe space to read, share ideas and explore texts. Everyone makes mistakes and this is valued as a normal and important part of the learning process. Children have plenty of opportunities to practise and discuss their reading in supportive environments.

Happy - reading should be enjoyable! Children experience engaging reading lessons and enrichment activities that inspire curiosity, leading to happy and motivated learners who develop a lifelong love of books.

Independent - our progressive reading curriculum is designed so that children incrementally build on their phonics, fluency and comprehension skills. Revisiting and applying these skills enables pupils to read with increasing confidence and independence.

Never give up - reading can sometimes be challenging. We encourage resilience, helping children to persevere, learn from mistakes and grow as readers together.

Excel to be the best that you can be - reading is woven across the wider curriculum, giving every child opportunity to succeed. From researching in history to exploring scientific texts or enjoying storytelling and drama, reading supports excellence across all subjects and contributes positively to each child's health and well-being.

Impact

Through learning to read at Northway Infants and Carrant Brook, children will develop the ability to decode, read fluently and comprehend a wide range of texts with increasing confidence. They will incrementally build their vocabulary, inference and critical thinking skills, enabling them to engage deeply with literature and information texts across the curriculum. Pupils' progress is carefully monitored through regular assessment, allowing teachers to identify and address gaps, ensuring all children, including those with SEND or who are disadvantaged or experience barriers in learning, make strong and sustained progress. Pupils will also broaden their cultural capital through exposure to diverse authors, stories and perspectives, developing empathy and an understanding of the wider world. Enrichment experiences, such as buddy reading, World Book Day celebrations and performing in Christmas productions, further enhance enjoyment of reading, embed literacy skills in meaningful contexts and prepare children to transition successfully to secondary school as confident, competent and enthusiastic readers who have the knowledge to achieve and thrive.

What retention may be demonstrated?

Pupils demonstrate secure retention of previously taught phonics, vocabulary and comprehension strategies, applying them confidently across a range of texts and contexts. They recall text structures, language features and literary devices, making connections between texts and using prior learning to infer meaning, summarise and evaluate content. Retention is evident when children are able to independently approach unfamiliar texts with confidence, apply learned strategies to decode and comprehend, and sustain engagement and enjoyment in reading over time.