

## How we teach reading at Hampton Junior School

Within Hampton Primary Partnership we believe that reading is the key that unlocks learning; learning to read is one of the most important things a child will ever learn. We understand that reading is integral to a child's understanding and appreciation of the world around them; a platform that allows our children to see beyond what they know, share in cultural experiences and develop the vocabulary they need to effectively express themselves. From the moment your child enters Hampton Infant School and then Hampton Junior School, they will be warmly invited into our 'Reading Community' where we are committed to promoting a life-long love of reading and where all our children are exposed to and immersed in a wide range of high quality texts.

We provide all our children with the necessary skills which will enable them to:

- Acquire a deep enjoyment and passion for reading and books;
- Read accurately, fluently and with a secure comprehension of what they have read;
- Read, a wide range of texts with confidence and expression and be able to respond accurately;
- Develop a profound level of emotional intelligence and empathy;
- Access texts, across all subjects, with confidence, in preparation for their next stage of education.

At Hampton Junior School, we use a whole class reading approach and our reading curriculum is designed based on solid research. Our approach ensures all our children are immersed in the same high quality and carefully considered literature and all our children participate in the discussions that these texts promote. These lessons are taught daily, for half an hour, and are in addition to teacher-led reading time and our text focused English lessons.

Texts are chosen and mapped with great care so that all our children gain a breadth of experiences, authors and themes. We also carefully consider any prior knowledge our children may need to draw upon and utilise in order to access our chosen texts fully- for example, Year 6 study the Victorians prior to reading *Street Child*.

In addition, we ensure our literature spine incorporates; social, ethical and moral issues, strong female role models, BAME authors, heritage classics and poetry.

Furthermore, these main focus texts are supplemented with a range of extracts. These are carefully selected to complement our literature spine books, exposing our children to a variety of genres and assisting them in connecting their knowledge. For example, when studying *Stone Girl Bone Girl*, in Year 6, the children are exposed to an extract based on the discovery of the Dodo, allowing them to make links between discoveries and how science has evolved over time. We believe that while our children are continuing to enjoy a range of whole books throughout their school journey, by adopting this approach, they are also learning to become metacognitive readers.

At Hampton Junior School we are fully aware that a fluent reader is one who can accurately and automatically decode words. When readers are accurate *and* automatic, they can decode with minimal use of their cognitive resources, thus allowing them to channel their effort towards comprehending and making sense of what they have read. We use the

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following strategies to develop fluency in reading with our children, not just within our reading curriculum, but across the entire school, on a daily basis.

- Choral reading
- Paired reading
- Modelled reading
- Speed reading

Also, within these reading lessons, our children are given the opportunity to deconstruct texts and answer questions, focusing on a variety of content domains from the National Curriculum. Our teachers have a deep understanding of content domains and by explicit teaching of these, we believe our children are more prepared and perform more confidently in standardised testing and are supported with problem solving, consequently, preparing them for their next stage of education

Highly competent, well-trained staff and robust assessment procedures ensure quick and effective intervention is delivered to any child who may require it. Those children in Year 2 who have not passed their phonics screening and children in KS2 who need additional support with reading are supported through either our 'Soundwrite Catch Up Programme' or our 'Blue Box/Yellow Box Interventions Programme'.

All classes experience daily class reads, solely for pleasure, to excite and engage our children and to expose them, even further, to a range of genres. Class read time is a time for our pupils to simply hear a book being read to them, without interruption. Again, these texts are carefully considered and may either link to our wider curriculum, have been recommended by the children themselves or will have strong links to a particular social, moral or ethical value and teaching.

In addition to our cosy class libraries, we are exceptionally privileged at Hampton Junior School to have a beautiful whole school library and all classes visit this on a weekly basis. During these times, our children browse, read, recommend, borrow and enjoy all things books. This has been known to be described by our children as 'the highlight of their week.'

Our reading rich curriculum is enhanced even further with exciting and diverse Author Events, World Book Day Celebrations, Book Fairs, Roald Dahl Days to name but a few!

### **Reading at Home**

At Hampton Junior School, we know that reading at home is an important tool in developing reading skills. Levelled titles from the Collins Big Cat reading scheme are used for home-reading to ensure that children experience a wide breadth of reading opportunities across different genres. Our reading scheme ensures children are offered high-quality books that reflect the diversity of our modern world.

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Children work through these books at their own pace, reading the majority of titles in each stage. Teachers monitor their progress and determine when best for children to move onto the next series, ensuring that a range of titles have been explored and understood. In addition, children take home a 'Reading for Pleasure Book' and this book can be chosen from either our inviting class libraries, our glorious whole school library or can be a book from home.