

The 7 Areas of Reading at St Columb Minor Academy

Prioritise Reading

Reading is a school priority within our School Improvement Plan. School leaders and governors recognise that reading is an essential skill that gives children their vocabulary, comprehension and an understanding of the wider world, as well as developing the curriculum and enabling life-long learning. We ensure staff training embeds teachers as reading experts and monitoring of reading is thorough and robust.

The systematic, synthetic phonics programme of **Read Write Inc** is delivered daily to EYFS and KS1 between 9.00 and 10.00am. All children from Year 2 upwards have dedicated shared reading lessons focusing on explicit reading skills. Once our children can decode and read with fluency, they are able to access the **Accelerated Reader** programme.

Love of Reading

Staff and children are passionate about reading. Staff share their favourite children's books with the children and make regular recommendations. Teachers are familiar with the children's reading preferences. As well as dedicating 15 minutes each day to allow children to read for pleasure, teachers read to their classes at the end of every day using a high-quality text chosen to fit the current class topic. Children are actively encouraged to read at home every night with an adult. Children record their reading in **Reading Records** which are checked regularly by staff. Every child reads with their class teacher regularly and some children read to adults in school every day.

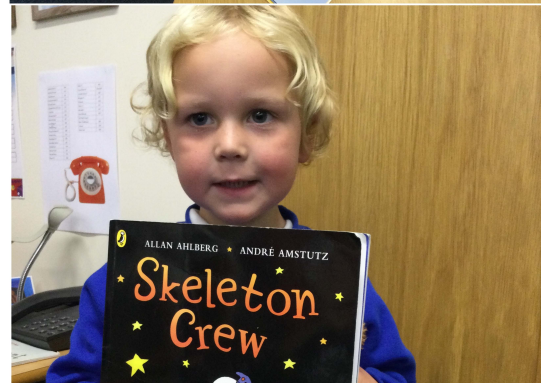
The school library is regularly restocked with up-to-date literature and our pupils are consulted on the selection of new reading books.

All children have access to our library and each classroom has a well-stocked reading corner which matches the ability and interests of the children.

Individual children are presented with reading awards in our Feather Assembly and accelerated progress is celebrated in our regular updates to staff using the detailed evidence available through Accelerated Reader.

Programme and Progress

Read, Write, Inc is a programme where children learn the English alphabetic code: first they learn one way to read the 40+ sounds and blend these sounds into words, then learn to read the same sounds with alternative graphemes. They experience success from the very beginning. Lively phonic books are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and 'tricky' words and, as children re-read the stories, their fluency increases. Along with a thought-provoking introduction, prompts for thinking out loud and discussion, children are helped to read with a storyteller's voice.



Progress is regularly monitored through teacher assessments, termly data reviews and through the formal testing of SATs. We also monitor progress through regular STAR reading assessments on Accelerated Reader. Those children who are not making expected progress are identified and daily 1:1 intervention/sessions are put in place to ensure they keep up with their peers.

Books match sounds

Through the Read Write Inc programme, children are given books that match the sounds that they have been taught. Children are then able to read with confidence and practice the sounds at home. The school has received funding through the Kernow English Hub to purchase complete resource sets of the entire RWI phonics programme. Once children are assessed as completing the programme, teachers and support staff regularly update children's reading books to ensure they are still able to fluently read their home reader for practice of reading skills taught within daily lessons. Reading books in KS1 are from the RWi programme and match current levels children are working on in school. Once RWi is completed in Year 2, children focus on developing their comprehension skills further in preparation for SATS and future success.

Phonics from the start

Our children learn phonics from the day they start at school and their skills are built up in a sequence daily. Once children are able to access Accelerated Reader, teachers complete half termly star tests and monitor children's quizzes to ensure comprehension and vocabulary skills are improving.

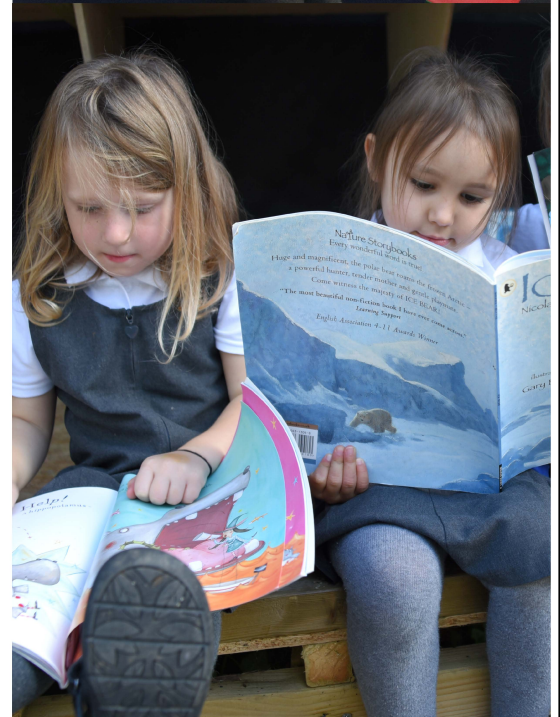
Catch up quickly

Within the National Curriculum, it states 'If children by the end of Year 1 are still struggling to decode and spell they need to be taught to do this urgently through a rigorous and systematic phonics programme so they catch up rapidly'. Those children who are assessed as being in the lowest 20% of each year group, receive catch up interventions in the afternoons. Our interventions match our phonics programme precisely.

Early reading experts

All of our FS and KS1 staff are early reading experts. These staff attend official training and are trained weekly by our Reading Leader.

All staff understand the strategies of RWI and use the Accelerated Reader programme to carefully track children's progress so that no child falls behind.



Reading is at the heart of everything we do!