



Reading at Thomas Johnson Lower School



Early Reading

The Early Years environment is flooded with books for children to explore freely, and plenty to read (matched to the child's phonics level).

There is a balance between systematic phonics and storytelling, singing and rhyming activities to develop phonological awareness.

Children hear modelled reading daily.



Speaking and Listening

Reading takes many forms. At times reading is shared, other times it is adult-led or child-led.

Texts are routinely evaluated and responses to reading are gained through the VIPERS approach.

Children are encouraged to read aloud, especially when performing poetry.



High Quality Text

Reading units are always supported by high quality texts that engage, inspire and evoke joy to the children.

Texts are ambitious in their language and themes. They provide an excellent model of a genre.

Reading responses are based around the text, giving children motivation and purpose to read and write.



Reading Fluency

Being able to read fluently is understood to be essential to comprehension.

Those requiring intervention (bottom 20%) are identified and supported.

Strategies such as 'echo reading' are used in classrooms and shared with parents/carers so they can support their children at home.



Phonics

Provision is consistent across the EYFS/KS1 phase.

Direct teacher instruction ensures children revisit previous sounds and are introduced to new sounds well.

Phonics is systematically delivered appropriate to a child's developmental stage.



Vocabulary

Vocabulary is both discretely shared and incidentally discussed. It is a cornerstone of the English Curriculum at TJLS.

Dictionary definitions are shared.

Children are encouraged to use ambitious vocabulary.

Language is not shied away from.



Reading Responses

Reading knowledge and skills are planned coherently using our Reading Progression Framework.

Responses are varied and require children to be dynamic in their comprehension of a text.

Responses are scaffolded for those requiring additional support.



Reading Culture

Reading is part of the fabric at TJLS.

Children read widely across the curriculum.

Reading is celebrated and access to books is uninhibited.