

Our Reading Curriculum: Responsible Readers

At Diamond Wood Community Academy, we aim for all of our children to become 'Responsible Readers'. We understand that research shows children need on average a 20 minute story time session each day in order to become an effective reader and develop their own love of reading.

At Diamond Wood Community Academy, we pledge to provide children with at least one storytime each day. However, to support our children to become 'Responsible Readers' we expect them to support us in making up the 'magic 20 minutes per day'. We will ensure at least 10 minutes of each school day is given to enjoying a story as long as they ensure 10 minutes of their spare time at home is also given to reading.

All children are provided with at least two reading books for home. One of these is a Read, Write Inc (RWI) book they are provided with in school which is matched to their reading abilities. This is a book they are familiar with as they have read multiple times within their lessons. The purpose of engaging with this type of text is to support children in developing and consolidating their phonics decoding skills.

Pupils also have the opportunity to take home a book of their choice from our school library. These are changed at least once every two weeks. The purpose of engaging with this type of text is to develop a deeper love of reading. Children will choose books which they find interesting and exciting to look at and read. Children's phonics abilities might mean that they choose a library book which is too challenging for them to read independently. For this reason, we recommend that these books are used as a chance for parents and carers to read to their children for pleasure. Children should not be expected to be able to read these books themselves without support.

Responsible reading can be in the form of many different activities. For example;

- Reading on your own and in your head
- Reading with a parent or family member
- Reading with a friend
- Reading with a pet
- Reading with a teddy
- Acting out the story
- Creating a story map



During lessons we take the time to model these different activities to provide children with ideas for implementing their own responsible reading. We regularly celebrate their achievements in school through whole class discussions, assemblies, collective worship time in class, show and tells, and much more!

Parents and Carers as Partners

Here at Diamond Wood Community Academy, we understand the pressure that can be placed upon parents to support their children with homework. In an ideal world, parents would share stories and practice reading with their children every day. However, we know that this can sometimes be unachievable due to different homework expectations and life in general getting in the way. Therefore, we have taken the decision to make home reading a priority for homework rather than sending home lots of different types. All we ask is that parents communicate well with us to inform our educators about what is happening at home in terms of reading development. All Year 1 and Year 2 children are provided with a Reading Record. Nursery and Reception parents are provided with a Tapestry online learning journal account. Parents are asked to use these to let us know that their child is being a responsible reader each day. A tick or short comment can support teachers in understanding who is gaining reading support at home and who might need some additional help in school where possible. For families adding comments into the reading records, it is important to appreciate that staff don't have enough time during the busy learning day to write feedback comments. However, we can guarantee that all comments are received, read and acted upon accordingly. The staff working within children's classrooms are always happy to discuss any concerns or queries if needed and monitor Reading Records and Tapestry multiple times per week.

Lifelong Lovers of Reading