

English

At Forest Park we teach English reading and writing in years 2-6 through text-based units. We endeavour to use books written by authors from BAME backgrounds to represent the rich cultural diversity of our school. These books are used alongside high quality non-fiction to deliver whole class guided reading through the VIPERS method. This method of teaching reading focuses on the comprehension aspect of reading through the key areas of vocabulary, inference, prediction, explanation, retrieval, summarise and sequence.

Additionally, we aim to create well-rounded writers who can write for a wide range of audiences and purposes. We teach a progressive range of text types covering the areas of entertain, inform, persuade, discuss, instruct and explain through our text-based unit. We use trips, visitors, drama and practical activities to the fullest to provide our children with real-life experience to enrich their writing and create great writers.

For phonics at Forest Park we follow the Read Write Inc programme. 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 continue on the programme until they can confidently apply these skills into their reading. We also include our EAL learners (where necessary) on our RWI programme as we find that children learning English as an additional language make speedy progress when learning to read with Read Write Inc. All children are grouped according to their reading progress and re-assessed every half term – they learn sounds and practise reading every day at exactly the right level. Staff who have had full and comprehensive training teach children. We also use a coaching model to support staff; this gives weekly coaching sessions to staff members ensuring we are all using the same systematic approach to deliver high quality phonics sessions to every child at Forest Park. We invest a lot of time and resources into teaching reading, as we believe that reading is fundamental in unlocking the wider world to our children.

We also believe that developing a love of reading is key to ensuring our children become lifelong readers. We have a well-stocked library that children have the opportunity to visit weekly, our school librarians are fantastic at keeping this running smoothly. Each class also has a class reading area and all classes from nursery to year 6 have some time dedicated each day to reading for pleasure. We also partake in Stoke 100 reads in partnership with our local library. This helps to direct children towards quality texts they should read, the aim is they read all 100 before leaving primary school.