

## Reading at Castlecroft Primary School (Intent)

At Castlecroft we want our children to develop a love of reading and leave our school as children who 'read for pleasure'. Through a carefully planned curriculum, which provides children with the opportunity to engage with and enjoy a wide range of high-quality texts, we aim for our children to become confident, fluent readers with excellent comprehension skills and the ability to express opinions about what they have read.

We understand that reading unlocks the door to learning, both in school and beyond into adult life, and therefore we ensure that there are opportunities for children to develop their reading skills daily in explicit Phonics or English lessons and also in lessons across the wider curriculum.

## Early Reading and Phonics (Implementation)

To develop early reading skills, at Castlecroft, we follow the Read Write Inc Phonics Programme (RWInc) which begins as soon as the children have settled into their Reception class and continues into Key Stage One until the children have completed the programme. The government strongly recommend the use of a synthetic phonics approach to teach early reading and we are proud to have been using this method with RWInc since 2010. It aims to get children reading as quickly as possible by teaching the 40+ sounds of the English alphabetic code and teaching children how to blend them to read decodable words which are then presented in short texts and simple story books.

Children take home a main reading book from the RWInc programme which is matched to their phonological knowledge. These books are fully decodable and include sounds that children have been taught in their Read Write Inc lessons along with a selection of red words (words children need to know by sight). The books also contain definitions of new words to broaden the children's vocabulary and they develop their comprehension skills through a range of questions which we strongly encourage parents to use when discussing the texts. Children can also access an eBook version of the text that they have been reading in their phonics group at home to practise their reading skills further and show parents what they have been reading at school. Once the children can confidently read words containing one way to spell a particular sound they begin to learn alternative graphemes (the way we write a sound) and therefore begin to read a broader range of texts with growing independence. Alongside their RWInc reading book children may also take home an additional book to share with parents.

In our early years settings we aim to capture a lifelong love of reading that ignites creativity, sparks curiosity and stimulates imagination in the young mind. We achieve this by:

- using high quality texts
- daily story times at different points in the day
- allowing children to vote for the story they would like to hear
- a cosy, inviting book corner where children can enjoy a range of books including fiction, non-fiction, poetry and comics etc
- props, puppets and small world characters to act out familiar stories
- providing access to stories to enjoy using QR codes to scan with an iPad or listening to audio books with headphones
- regular singing of songs and rhymes

## KS1

All KS1 children take part in whole class English lessons in addition to their RWInc phonic group sessions. Staff use high quality texts by classic, well-loved children's authors, as the stimulus for much of the children's English work. Other discrete, specific texts may also be used to develop comprehension skills. At Castlecroft we use the 'VIPERS' acronym (**V**ocabulary, **I**nfERENCE, **P**rediction, **E**xplain, **R**etrieval and **S**equencing) when teaching children about the different reading 'domains' or 'elements' in both RWInc and whole class English lessons.

## KS2

In KS2 the reading domains continue to be taught and developed further through whole class teaching in English reading lessons and comprehension lessons. We still use 'VIPERS' but there are additional reading domains which feature in these lessons. In KS2 children learn to 'Summarise' a text and 'Explain' how information and narrative content is related and contributes to the meaning of a text as a whole. They also learn to make comparisons within the text and how an author's choice of vocabulary enhances the meaning of a text.

## Wider Reading Opportunities

All children at Castlecroft are encouraged to use our wonderfully stocked library. It is run by a dedicated member of staff and children may take a book home each week to extend and develop their reading. Children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 have a weekly library session on their class timetable and the rest of the school have a designated day to visit the

library to choose and change books during their lunchtime. Staff also regularly select books from the library to support classroom work in many areas of the curriculum. Our librarian also runs a reading club which is available to all Year 3 children in a six-session block throughout the year. Books are selected on a particular theme, genre or by author and read together in the group and then children complete a range of exciting activities linked to the texts.