

Reading at Ibstock Junior School

Phonics

Ibstock Junior School uses the Letters and Sounds approach to phonics which follows on from the methods the children learn at St Denys Infant School. Although we would wish all children to be secure with phonics before they enter the school in Year 3, there are still a number of children who require additional phonics intervention. We also use the 'Jolly Phonics' approach during intervention groups to help those children who have gaps in their phonic knowledge.

Reciprocal Reading

This is an initiative running for all pupils in class during the school day to help improve comprehension skills. The stages are outlined below as it is something that can be followed when discussing your child's reading book at home with them.

Predict – read the first sentences of a page or chapter. Ask your child what they think is going to happen. Why do they think this? What clues can they use from the text to help? They then need to read the text.

Clarify – this is where children may need help to understand what particular words or phrases might mean in the text. You can use your own knowledge or encourage them to use a dictionary to check meaning. Re-read the sentence with them to see if it makes it clearer, or can they figure it out from what has been written about already?

Question – here is where you use different types of questions in order to help the child understand the text further. Encourage them to identify parts that are confusing them or that they don't understand. Ask them to find relevant information to answer a question, or form an opinion about what they have read.

Summarise – finally ask the child to find the most important information from the section/paragraph they have read, and try to put it in their own words. Remind them that this is a summary and not an opportunity to regurgitate the entire section slightly differently!

Reading Scheme

The school uses 'Oxford Reading Tree' for developing readers and then children select books from the library, some of these are banded by reading ability (a teacher can explain this banding system to you).

The School Library

We have invested over £3000 in the library this year, including buying books which are 'banded' at different reading levels. Parents are welcome to come and explore our resources and pick a book from the library with your child on a regular basis, by opening the library on a Tuesday and Friday afternoon from 3.15pm until 3.45pm. Please feel free to come and have a look around, and work with your child to choose an appropriate book for them to read out loud to you.

Reading Intervention

We run 1:1 reading coaching sessions, by invitation, before and after school to improve basic reading skills. In addition, in older year groups we run 'Inferential Reading Skills' groups to improve comprehension levels for selected pupils.