

Reading for pleasure at Cavendish Close Junior Academy



In addition to children's regular whole-class reading sessions, children have two fifteen minute 'Reading for pleasure' sessions every week. This is a time when the teacher reads aloud to them as a class. There is no follow-up task and the sessions are purely focused on children enjoying the text. This is a necessary part of children's education in reading as we appreciate that some children disengage from reading as they grow to associate it with the need to do some form of task or assessment. Teachers also value the need to discuss literature with their classes, as this is vital in developing their love of reading (Chambers 1997).

Children are given daily opportunities to visit our newly-developed library and outdoor reading shed as places to go and enjoy reading a book. In both of these locations, children are encouraged to choose whatever books interest them and to actively monitor their understanding to help decide whether the book is appropriate for them. Star reading test ZPDs (Zones of Proximal Development) are used to assist children in finding suitable books, but they do not; however, need to dictate their reading for pleasure book choices. Our reading champion Teaching Assistant, who is also the librarian, is highly skilled in monitoring book choices and assisting those who need extra guidance.

Each class is named after an author in order to widen children's knowledge of a range of literature, and each classroom includes a dedicated reading corner in which children can sit and enjoy reading for pleasure. Children take part in our scholastic book fairs three times a year and each year and we hold reading focused activities such as: World book day, Derby city 'Meet the author' event, and a class author focus afternoon.

As part of the Harmony trust, we are part of the Read Achieve Succeed (RAS) initiative. The aim is to raise the profile of reading across the Trust and develop a lifelong love of reading within our children. The initiative also aligned itself with the trust priority to raise the outcomes in reading for all pupils regardless of their need or circumstance. The initiative includes various aspects and activities such as: the pledge to give all children a book of their choice every year and our CEO reading with children once a week for one term each year.

We endeavour to heighten children's awareness of reading for pleasure environment throughout school. Each classroom has a designated reading corner and reward display and there are many displays to encourage reading for pleasure around the school building, including forward-facing shelves in the corridors. In addition, we have some Derby County under 23 professional footballers who read with disadvantaged Year 5 and 6 boys on a weekly basis.

Finally, we have implemented a '20 books to read by the end of year 4' and '20 books to read by the end of year 6' initiative across Cavendish Close Junior Academy. The main purpose of this is to enhance children's love of reading through a range of age-appropriate texts, including a reward for completing the books which involves a parental visit to assembly. The book lists include a range of text genres and types, as well as introducing children to new authors and cultures. Many of the books selected are recommendations from 'The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education' (CLPE) core books lists.