



How do we promote a love of reading at Offenham CofE First School?

At Offenham CofE First School, we promote a 'Love of Reading' throughout the school. We want to build a culture of reading for enjoyment and develop a lifelong love of reading which will benefit children in so many ways. We recognise that reading for pleasure will encourage children to succeed both academically and socially. Here are some of the things we do to promote a love of reading:

- We have prioritised a 'love of reading', ensuring that children are read to daily and that story times are engaging.
- We ensure reading activities are promoted throughout the whole school year through World Book Day, National Poetry Day, book swaps and reading clubs.
- An appealing, well-stocked and updated library is available for daily use to ensure children's requests for books are met.
- Pupil Conferencing indicates that our pupils love visiting the library and are pleased with the range of books available (fiction and non-fiction).
- Every classroom has a well-organised area designated to reading.
- We actively seek to add new, exciting books to our Book Corners, when we can. Children are asked for their input to support this process.
- Class teachers read a novel or non-fiction book daily linked to our whole school reading curriculum or teachers can also choose their own books to share with the children which they feel will be loved and enjoyed.
- There are reward systems in place that recognise children who love reading at school and at home.
- Reading progress is displayed and celebrated in all classes through reading at home rewards / AR points achievements / AR word count.
- We have dedicated videos and newsletters produced by Miss Ree to support with early reading and phonics.
- Our weekly reading club give children an opportunity to read independently or listen to Miss Aucock share a story.

- Reading buddies occur weekly between all classes in school. Sharing books with a partner from the library, class areas, books from home or the big book area.
- ERIC time takes place in Malvern, Cotswold and Severn classes on a weekly basis.
- Children have books accessible to them during all playtimes. Books are changed regularly.

1. Class reading time

Reading to the class is a priority and it doesn't have to fit into the curriculum, the timetable or have an objective which needs ticking off. Every day, children are read to by their teacher. This is a non-negotiable!

In Early Years and Key Stage One, the teaching of early reading is done systematically alongside phonics. Children take home a book that is matched to their reading ability to read with their parents / carers. These are changed as often as is required. Teachers also share high quality extracts and short stories for book discussion as well as enjoyment in the afternoons.

In Key Stage Two, teachers follow a reading curriculum that is varied with a termly novel for reading lessons, as well as extracts which engage and broaden children's reading tastes.

Reading is central to foundation subjects such as science, history and geography and opportunities to read outside of these, as well as in lessons, are encouraged with topic books in book corners.

2. Involving the community

We involve our parents by supporting with tips and techniques for helping children develop early reading, comprehension skills and a love of reading.

We have helpers who come into school on a weekly basis to hear children read. These people are a mix of parents, grandparents, ex-parents and residents of a local care home

3. Book donations

Throughout the year we have regular events whereby children can donate their books. If children can see a book they have brought in or recommended on the bookshelves or being enjoyed by their peers, it can really help them to appreciate the value of the enjoyment of books.

During the year we have an event whereby children bring in a 'secret' book to swap with another child. They write a recommendation in order to make the swap more informative.

Fundraising by our school PTA has been invested in quality book sets for the classroom and our AR library.

4. World Book Day

We celebrate World Book Day. It is important to remember that it shouldn't be just about dressing up in a superhero costume / pyjamas. Such an event can give children a real reason for understanding characters, expressing preferences, talking about books they have enjoyed and hearing about books from their peers that they might not otherwise have chosen to read. It also enables them to see the power of a shared love of reading.

5. A reading environment

The school environment can really make a big impact. All classrooms have clearly thought out reading corners and emphasis has been placed on not only how they look, but how accessible and welcoming they are, stocked up with good quality, appropriate books. Sometimes less is best!

In the oldest class children have a book on their desks at all times allowing them to read in those extra pockets of time.

Children take part in an ERIC session each week where everyone reads – including staff. They are encouraged to bring in books from home or choose one from the library. Severn Class even bring in blankets and torches for an extra cosy reading experience! Teachers and other staff promote reading for pleasure simply by having a copy of a book or magazine they are reading on their desk and by being ready to discuss it with the children if they ask what they are reading.