

*'Reading is the key to every
door in your future.'*



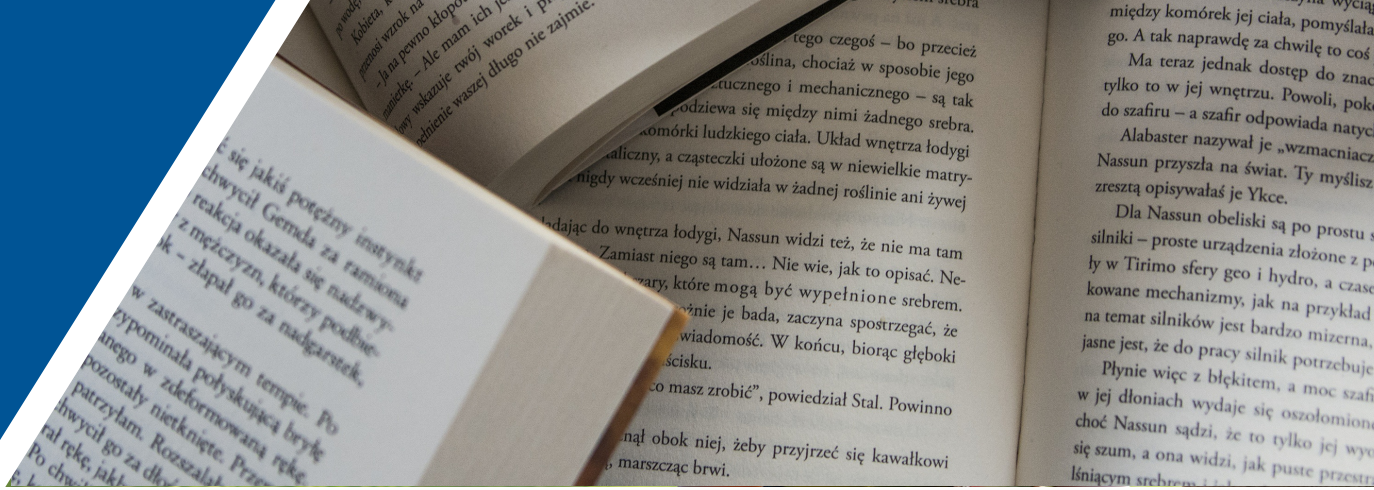
CVPS



UNLOCKING ENGLISH:

A Guide to Phonics,
Early Reading and Beyond at
Chipstead Valley Primary School





Dear Parents,

At Chipstead Valley, we believe in fostering a love for learning and empowering our pupils with the essential skills needed for a lifetime of success. In this booklet, we will guide you through our approach to phonics and early reading, which is grounded in research and proven to be effective. Our phonics program is designed to provide a structured and systematic approach to teaching children how to read. This, combined with our immersive and broad approach to the teaching of reading and the development of children's desire and opportunities for reading for pleasure, ensures our children are well-prepared for a lifetime of learning and achievement.

By the end of their time at primary school, we aim for children to be exposed to a wide range of genres and to be confident, fluent readers, equipped with the skills needed to succeed in all areas of their education. We believe that the ability to read is a fundamental skill that opens doors to an entire world of knowledge and opportunities.

This booklet aims to provide parents with an overview of the reading provision offered at our school.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education.

PHONICS



What is phonics?

Phonics is a method of teaching children to read by helping them understand the relationship between sounds (phonemes) and the letters that represent those sounds (graphemes). It is the foundation for early reading and essential for developing strong literacy skills.

FFT Success for All Phonics Programme

At Chipstead Valley Primary, we implement the FFT Success for All Phonics Programme, a comprehensive and evidence-based approach to phonics instruction. Our Nursery children begin with the 'First Steps to Phonics' FFT programme, with children from Reception then moving on to the full programme. Whole class lessons are taught daily across our Early Years and Year 1 classes, using a variety of fun activities, in multi-sensory and systematic ways. Each session gives an opportunity for children to revisit their previous experience, be taught new skills, practice together and apply what they have learned, and celebrate their achievements. It follows the teaching principles of:

- Revisit and Review
- Teach and Model
- Practise and Apply
- Celebrate Achievement and Assess

The program is designed to:

- Systematically introduce and reinforce phonics skills
- Build a strong foundation in decoding and word recognition
- Develop fluency and comprehension skills
- Foster a love for reading through engaging activities and stories

For more information on the FFT Success for All Phonics Programme, please click the following link:

https://parents.fft.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Parent_Carer_Guide.pdf



TEACHING READING

Treehouse

Children enjoy reading for pleasure daily as a whole class and also work on their individual reading target linked to their EHCPs throughout the week.

Nursery

Children enjoy reading for pleasure daily as a whole class and in small groups.

Reception and Year 1

Pupils enjoy reading for pleasure daily as a whole class and individually. They also have a daily shared reading lesson, which is linked to the Success for All phonics programme.

Year 2

Pupils enjoy reading for pleasure daily as a whole class and individually. They also follow the FFT Routes to Reading programme.

Years 3-6

Guided reading sessions are taught as a whole class from Years 3-6 four times per week. A range of poetry, non-fiction and fiction are covered across each half term. Activities comprise of a range of discussion-led and written tasks, developing comprehension skills for the year group. In addition, pupils enjoy reading for pleasure daily as a whole class and individually.

ACCELERATED READER

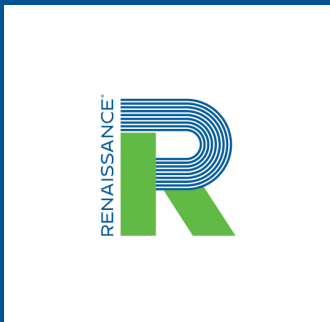
YEARS 2-6

Accelerated Reader is a reading program that helps teachers support and monitor children's reading practice. Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short online quiz to measure how much of the book they understood.

Every half term, the children carry out an online test used to measure their reading level. The test uses multiple-choice questions and takes around 20 minutes. This aids the teacher in identifying the range of book levels each child needs to read within, alongside their areas for development and gives the child access to books of interest at an appropriate age range.

For more information on the Accelerated Reader programme, please click this link:

<https://www.renlearn.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Parents-Guide-to-Renaissance.pdf>



WHOLE-SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

Children are regularly assessed informally by the teacher within the lessons and over a sequence of lessons to ensure they have a deep understanding and that they are on track with the learning. If children need additional support in phonics, they are provided with 'keep-up' sessions to ensure they stay on track with the rest of the class.

More formal assessments are completed regularly using FFT's Reading Assessment Programme (RAP), which covers all Reception and KS1 assessments including phonics skills, decoding, reading fluency, comprehension and the Year 1 phonics screening check. Children who require further additional support in phonics (catch-up) are identified using a range of assessment information and will be supported through small group or one-to-one interventions. In addition, years 2-6 carry out termly PiXL reading tests focused on comprehension.

INTERVENTION AND SUPPORT

HOME READING

Throughout the week, children have access to a range of books to read, some of which can be read independently, whilst others (that are not fully decodable) may be shared with an adult.

All pupils in ELP and from Reception to Year 6 visit the library weekly and can choose a reading for pleasure book to enjoy at home.

Pupils in Reception and Year 1 also take home the shared reader they have been focusing on in class along with an additional suitable decodable book covering sounds they have been exposed to in phonics lessons.

Pupils in Years 2-6 also take home a suitable book based on the range they have been given through the accelerated reader programme alongside teacher assessment.

We recognise that all children are individuals and therefore in the event a child has additional needs that need to be supported or challenged, our provision is altered accordingly.

When necessary, children are supported with a suitable intervention, to support them to achieve in line with age related expectations. Currently, we have the following interventions in place throughout the school:

- Additional phonics sessions in the afternoon (KS1) or early morning before school (KS2)
- Reading Plus (UKS2)
- Lightning Squad (2-6)

Children on our SEND register, in receipt of pupil premium funding and achieving in the lowest 20% within the year group, are heard read by an adult daily.



READING FOR PLEASURE

We value the importance of reading for pleasure and promote this in the following ways:

- Children are exposed to a range of texts whilst in school, through English and shared reading lessons, class stories and opportunities to explore non-fiction within the wider curriculum;
- Every class has a weekly visit to the library;
- There are opportunities for independent reading for pleasure, accommodated in the weekly timetable;
- Each class has either a welcoming book corner or class library with a range of appealing texts, reflecting the diversity and interests of that individual class;
- Each class has a whole class novel, which is read daily and is clearly displayed in the classroom;
- All shared reading texts chosen are inspiring and engaging;
- An engaging variety of books are used as a stimulus for writing each year;
- Celebrations of books are visible in displays, including the 50 recommended texts for each year group;
- Children's ideas and opinions are listened to when selecting suitable texts for the book corner, reflecting the diversity, age and interests of the class;
- We celebrate national events such as World Book Day, hold a yearly book fair and host author visits.

“The more you **read**
the more **things** you know.
The more that you **learn**
the more **places** you'll go.”
-Dr. Seuss





LET'S WORK TOGETHER

If you ever need further support or to discuss your child's progress and support in phonics and reading, please contact your child's class teacher to arrange a meeting.

