

Belsay School



Reading is our highest academic priority at Belsay School and our aspiration is that children will become lifelong readers who are enthusiastic, engaged and who love to read. Reading allows access to all other areas of the curriculum and information gathering and therefore directly influences lifelong learning, opportunities and achievement.

New Government priorities are that children 'Read fast and Read Fluently,' having emphasis placed on phonics (sounds that letters and groups of letters make) and being able to use this to read texts fluently on first sight using this phonic knowledge. Children will also re-read extensively which is a significant change from previous approaches.

We have evaluated our reading schemes across school and will be concentrating on one scheme, as advocated by the Government. Belsay has chosen to continue with Read Write Inc due to its rigorous approach, variety of books, links with writing development and the interest and enjoyment the materials provide. As children complete the scheme, they will move to 'Big Cat' readers which are high quality texts with wide ranging appeal. Assessment materials will be used to ensure that pupils are accurately matched to a book band based on their fluency level.

As a result weekly reading books going home will be as follows:

Reception- Read Write Inc banded book and a library book. Additional reading will also be allocated on Oxford Owl.

Y1/2- Read Write Inc banded book and a library book. Additional reading will also be allocated on Oxford Owl.

Y3-6- Collins BigCats banded book and a library book.

All children in Reception to Year 2 will have a reading book that is at an appropriate level for them to read independently on first sight to an adult at home using their phonics skills. This may seem too easy, but reinforcement and regular re-reading will develop greater fluency. Ideally children should re-read their book each day.

Children who complete the phonics programme in Year 2 will then move to a Collins BigCats banded book which will match their reading fluency level. Ideally children should be heard reading every day. Please help us build on our already strong home school partnership as this new method has shown tremendous success already.

Pupils will also have a library book that an adult can read to the child. It is very important that children hear adult reading modelled to them with expression and intonation. Adult modelling of reading also takes place in school everyday.

Please continue to record progress or general comments in the reading record or diary. We will record when we have read together in school. This will allow a fuller understanding of reading at home and school.

Thank-you to our amazing PTA who have helped to fund the Collins BigCats banded books- this will make a difference for years to come.

For further reading: [The Reading Framework- Teaching the foundations of literacy](#)