Reading For Pleasure at Eastcroft Park

Rationale 2020-2022

"Schools that take the business of reading for pleasure seriously, where teachers read, talk with enthusiasm and recommend books, and where provision for reading is planned carefully, are more likely to succeed with their pupils' reading."

(Ofsted)

"If we don't learn to love books' we don't read. And if we don't read widely, we don't think deeply."

Michael Rosen Author and Children's Laureate

"A reading child is, quite simply, a successful child... When you read often and with enthusiasm, usually just for the sheer fun of it, you lay foundations that last for life. You empathise. You access information more easily. Almost by osmosis you internalise the essential skills of spelling, grammar and vocabulary. You learn to express yourself verbally and in writing. You learn to interpret and potentially change your world."

– Alan Gibbons, Author and Friend of Eastcroft Park

Why do we promote 'reading for pleasure'?

At Eastcroft Park Primary school we believe that reading should be a pleasurable and inspirational experience. As part of our vision and values, we want our children to be enthused by books and grow into adults who will actively *choose* to read and who will pass their love of books onto future generations. We believe that children who read for pleasure deepen their understanding of the world around them and develop their compassion towards others. A book can transport you through time, take you to exotic destinations and allow you to be inspired by brave, heroic deeds.
All of our children have access to books and we want the thrill of reading to encourage them to aspire to achieve their dreams.

"...reading for pleasure is a form of play that allows us to experience other worlds and roles in our imagination."

- Nell (1988),

How do we promote 'reading for pleasure'?

By giving children the freedom of choice.

We know that everyone has different preferences but also believe that you cannot make a choice until you have experienced a wide range of genres and text types. We value all reading and we actively promote reading newspapers, play scripts, comics, online stories and manuals as valid reading options as well as more traditional fiction and non-fiction books. Children have access to these resources in their classrooms, through use of ipads and laptops, within the Reading Hut and in the school library. We aim to develop positive attitudes towards reading and foster a love of books through an enthusiastic reading culture and therefore subscribe to Pennac's "Inviolable Rights of the Reader'. These include:

- The right to read anything.
- The right to skip pages.
- The right to read anywhere.
- The right to read aloud.
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By being great models for reading.

We know that children absorb everything that happens around them which is why we encourage all adults in our school to model enjoyment for reading themselves. Our classes have whole class novels or daily story time sessions where teachers, teaching assistants and children can share a book they enjoy together. Children can benefit tremendously from being read to aloud. Effective reading aloud time helps to create a positive reading experience which engages pupils and allows adults to model their enthusiasm for books and reading. It also allows whole class interaction, development of inference and deduction skills by stopping to ask questions about what has been read or discussing the pictures they have been shown, and helps to improve pupils' comprehension of a story. This academic year we will continue to strive to encourage our parents to get involved by organising competitions and events such as 'bedtime story' afternoons, 'Bring a Book to breakfast club' initiatives and workshops to promote an enjoyment of reading; it's our aim to share with parents how we encourage a love of reading at our school and demonstrate how they can develop the same culture at home.

By creating opportunities to read somewhere special.

Children are stimulated by different environments which is why we encourage them to read in different places. All classrooms have special book corners which have cosy beanbags and cushions to sit in and a well organised selection of books. Our outdoor environment allows us the opportunity to read in serene locations in the school grounds. We have a high quality library with a vast selection of books to choose from; all classes are allocated weekly slots to spend time here. We also attend sessions at Kirkby Library for all classes from Y2 – Y6. Our library gives our children the opportunity to recommend books to each other, suggest books that we should buy and also promotes 'extreme reading' locations through a display, contributed to by children and adults. We are fortunate to have installed a "Reading Hut" into our school as well as a reading Tardis which leads to a secret Book Nook; both are very special reading places designed to be a comfortable, cosy and enclosed space with the intention of motivating and inspiring groups of children to read for pleasure. The theme of the reading hut can change each term in order to create different atmospheres and provide children with different flavours and ambience for reading e.g. a beach hut, an alpine hut, Santa's elves' workshop etc. Similarly, the Reading Tardis can land anywhere and transport children to the most wonderful, imaginative places Overseeing the reading hut are our "Reading Champions"; a designated group of Y6 children who work alongside the English Lead and advocate reading for pleasure throughout the school. The English Lead facilitates Reading for Pleasure across the curriculum and leads on whole school reading initiatives as well as keeping up to date with recent publications for children and follows popular reading trends, in order to actively encourage reading for pleasure across all groups of children within school i.e. boys, AGT children, reluctant readers etc. The Reading Hut and Reading Tardis are designed to be accessible for all children and as well as providing a location for intensive 1:1 reading support, it's a place where children can attend book clubs or spend time as a reward/recognition for special efforts with reading.

By raising the profile of reading in our school.

We celebrate World Book Day and hold regular Whole School Book Weeks which focus on promoting and sharing a love of reading. Children and adults share stories, parents are invited into school and a range of fun activities take place. In order to widen the spectrum of styles and genres our children are exposed to, each class studies 3 significant children's authors throughout the year and immerse themselves in their collection of work. We celebrate children's love of reading by ensuring book reviews and recommendations are visible within school. Pupil Voice is central to the school

ethos, and this year, we aim to use pupil voice to guide the purchase of books throughout the school. Pupil questionnaires are used to gain an insight into the reading habits/interests/preferences of the children. We allocate time within our school timetable for children to spend time enjoying reading, such as library time, class reader/story time and visits to Kirkby Library. We invite authors, storytellers and poets into school to inspire our children and hold book fairs to encourage children and parents to try new books. Where we believe that children have little access to good quality books the school tries to provide compensatory measures which allow equality of access to all children e.g. sending extra books home, reading with a reading volunteer, attending lunch time library club or reading groups such as Story Stars. We also display reading as a pleasurable activity for everyone throughout the school; for example, portraits of all staff (including office staff, lunchtime staff, site manager etc) are displayed outside classrooms, in corridors and central areas with a picture of their current read and a quote explaining the plot and their opinions.

What facilities/events does the school have to encourage 'enjoyment for reading'?

- Huge investment in range of books, ICT based reading programmes and reading materials such as 'First News' and 'Aquila' magazine
- The Reading Hut and Reading Tardis with their own collection of resources.
- 'Reading Champions' -giving children the opportunity to be positive reading role models to in Lunchtime Book clubs
- Reading challenges and competitions throughout the year
- Planned activities around World Book Day
- Special reading areas in each classroom
- Author focuses in each class, each term.
- Time in the school day dedicated to school library time, class/reader story time and visits to Kirkby Library
- Topic books, project loans and story sacks are delivered by the School Library Service on a termly basis
- Visits by authors/poets/storytellers
- Regular Whole School Book Weeks
- Reading display boards
- Parents invited in planned events, initiatives and workshops to promote an enjoyment of and desire to engage in shared reading.
- Visiting book fair

**this list is not finite and will be added to/amended through the year in response to pupil voice/needs*

What will this achieve?

When children read for pleasure, when they get "hooked on books", they acquire, involuntarily and without conscious effort, nearly all of the so-called "language skills" many people are so concerned about: they will become adequate readers, acquire a large vocabulary, develop the ability to understand and use complex grammatical constructions, develop a good writing style, and become good (but not necessarily perfect) spellers.

- Krashen (1993)

Studies have found that children who express an enjoyment for reading at a young age usually go on to be very academically successful. At Eastcroft Park Primary School the active encouragement of reading for pleasure is a core part of every child's entitlement, whatever their background or attainment. Eastcroft Park Primary School strongly believes that extensive reading and a wide exposure to a range of texts makes a vital contribution to every child's educational achievement and will help to establish each child as a lifetime reader based on developing a love of reading.

In addition to this, we also want our children to leave Eastcroft Park Primary School feeling confident, inspired and curious about the world around them. Reading for pleasure and developing a love of reading can give children all of these things; we firmly believe and advocate that reading for pleasure impacts on children's futures and their life chances.

This rationale is linked to the English Policy and Reading Rationale in its promotion and encouragement of reading as a pleasurable activity and is used to engrain the School's philosophy of a love of reading throughout life.

At Eastcroft Park Community Primary School, we love to READ!

Review Date: November 2022
English Lead: Gill Hudson