



## Reading at Boney Hay

***“The more you read the more you know. The more you learn the more places you’ll go.”  
Dr Seuss***

At Boney Hay we believe that reading is the key to all knowledge and that without it, children will not be able to open the door to the opportunities they deserve. For this reason we promote an environment that is rich in words, books and adventure.

### Reception and Year 1

To get the children off to an excellent start we use Read Write Inc Phonics. The children are taught the sounds first in a specific order. They then learn to blend using Ditty Books and move onto Story books. (Full details can be found on our separate Phonics page). Sight words are taught in both year groups.

### Year 2 onwards

It is important that children not only learn the skills to be successful readers, but that they also see reading as a pleasurable experience. In class time they are taught how to:

- Understand and explain words in context
- Use root words for meaning
- Retrieve and record information
- Identify key details in a text
- Summarise main ideas
- Make and explain inferences
- Predict
- Understand the meaning of a whole text
- Identify and explain language choices
- Explain how language choice enhances meaning
- Make comparisons in a text

Children will work as a whole class, in small groups and sometimes on a 1-1 basis to consolidate and extend knowledge. Class teachers will also promote reading across the curriculum so that children can use their skills to adapt to new situations.

Each day, children have the opportunity to silent read and teachers join them in this oasis of calm during a busy day.

### Free Reading

Children have a choice of books that they can select from our libraries and class reading areas to bring home to share. We have a Book Swap Box in the main corridor and children are encouraged to bring in books to swap with new ones. Our Reading Huts are open at each break time and children are encouraged to spend time in there simply reading for pleasure. Book fayres

are held annually to replenish our library and encourage the children to try out new authors. All children receive a Public Library card following visits to the local library and parents are encouraged to take their children regularly. We also run reading Clubs for children in Key Stage 2.

### **Booster groups**

During the year, after school clubs run for children in Upper Key Stage 2 who are working at or just below age related expectations. These children are selected carefully and will work with a senior leader to improve their reading skills.

### **How Parents can help**

Children get better at reading through lots of practice. By hearing children read at home, you can help them practise and improve. As you get more experienced, you will find more ways of helping children with their reading. But the main thing you will be doing is giving them more opportunity to practise by reading aloud to an adult. We ask that children read at least three times a week to an adult and record this in their Home Reading Diary. For every three times they read, the children receive a stamp on their homework card.

When reading with your child, talk about the book they are reading. What is it about? Do they like it? What has happened so far? What do they think will happen next?

With younger and less able readers, talk about the pictures. Pictures help children to understand the words.

With older and more able readers, discuss the characters and the words and phrases used by the author.

When a child doesn't know a word, ask him or her to try it and then tell the child what it is. If a child misreads a word, stop him or her and say the correct word – although if it is a word which makes no difference to the meaning (for example 'home' instead of 'house' or 'water' instead of 'sea'), it is usually best to ignore it. If older children struggle with the meaning of the word, ask them to read around it to find the meaning in context. If they can't do this, then they are encouraged to use a dictionary.

Your child may already be a member of the local library through a school visit, so please take them so that they can regularly choose new books.

Use lots of praise and encouragement, and avoid criticism. It is important that the children become more confident with reading.

### **Thank you**

We are grateful for all the support you give your children at home and know that together we can unlock the world of opportunity with the magic key of reading.

