



English Reading

Intent

At Greenside, we believe that reading is the key to unlocking the full curriculum and enabling every child to thrive academically, socially and emotionally. Our intent is to nurture confident, fluent and enthusiastic readers who not only read for purpose but also for pleasure. We understand that reading is essential for success in life and that it plays a vital role in developing vocabulary, imagination, empathy and critical thinking.

From the very beginning of their learning journey in Nursery, we strive to ensure every child develops the foundational skills needed to become a successful reader. We are committed to early identification and intervention so that all children, regardless of starting point or background, are supported in becoming fluent and capable readers.

We also recognise that a love of reading must be actively fostered. That's why our approach to reading combines structured, evidence-based teaching with rich, engaging experiences that help children connect with books on a personal level. Our reading environments, texts, and teaching strategies are inclusive and diverse, ensuring all children see themselves reflected in what they read and are introduced to the wider world through literature.

Our aims are to:

- Build strong early reading foundations through high-quality phonics and early language development
- Develop confident, fluent readers with secure comprehension and vocabulary knowledge
- Foster curiosity, imagination and a lifelong love of books
- Equip pupils with the strategies and independence to approach a wide range of texts
- Ensure all children, including those who need additional support, are given the tools and encouragement to succeed



Implementation

Our reading curriculum is carefully structured to support progression from Nursery through to Year 6:

- In EYFS, children begin with *Little Wandle Foundations for Phonics*, exploring language through stories, songs and play. From Reception, children follow the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* programme through daily, systematic phonics sessions.
- Children identified with speech or language gaps receive support through the *NELI* programme, ensuring they can access reading with confidence. In Key Stage 1, Little Wandle phonics continues, alongside *Big Cat Phonics* home readers matched to pupils' phonics levels.
- In Year 2, we introduce *Destination Reader* alongside phonics to support the transition into comprehension-led reading while continuing targeted interventions for those needing phonics support.
- From Year 3 to Year 6, *Destination Reader* is fully embedded, with daily lessons focusing on key reading strategies such as clarifying, summarising, predicting and evaluating.
- All children access our school library weekly and take home a reading book suited to their level and interests. KS2 pupils also bring home a *Big Cat* levelled reader to consolidate fluency.
- We use the *Reading Cloud* system to track book choices, borrowing habits, and assessments, ensuring we respond promptly to pupil needs and interests.
- Teachers assess reading progress at least half-termly using a mix of formative and summative strategies, ensuring timely support for any child falling behind.

Impact

As a result of our whole-school approach:

- Children leave Greenside as confident, fluent and motivated readers
Pupils can apply a wide range of strategies to understand and talk about what they read
- Children regularly choose to read for pleasure and show ownership over their reading choices



- Reading outcomes show strong progress across all year groups, including for those who begin school with lower starting points
- All children, regardless of background or need, are supported to become successful readers
- Reading is visibly valued across the school and forms the foundation of learning in every subject