

Reading and Phonics in Key Stage 1

At Bexton we use the Oxford Reading Tree scheme as our core scheme in key stage 1 and supplement this with a wide variety of additional books from other reading schemes. The reading books we use with the children provide a good variety of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and play scripts to develop all aspects of reading and to appeal to different learning needs. All of our reading books are tailored to develop the pupils' abilities to use a variety of skills to support their reading including phonic decoding, the ability to initially use pictures to support reading and then to develop this skill in order to use context and syntax cues.

The children may read a book in a small group or 1 to 1 with their teacher; teachers use ongoing assessment to determine the needs of each child. In addition to developing the reading skills mentioned above, a child's comprehension of what they have read is assessed whilst they read to ensure that children are reading for meaning.

In addition to reading from a reading book, the children in key stage 1 are also taught to phonically decode and blend through a daily discrete phonics lesson. We use a combination of two schemes, Letters and Sounds and Read, Write Inc. to support our phonic teaching. The children are taught phonics in ability groups within their year group and as children progress and are adept at identifying, decoding and blending phonemes the lessons focus more on spelling and spelling rules.

Alongside the teaching of reading and phonics, the teachers use a comprehensive system of assessing a child's reading and phonic skills. These assessments are used to determine the child's next step in reading.

