

# Woodlands – a reading school

## Our mission statement



### Our aim

Above all else, we want our pupils to grow up to be happy and kind people, to understand the world they live in and to learn what it is to be human. Instilling our children with a love of and confidence with reading is central to this. It is one of the most important things we do at Woodlands. Every one of us understands how reading can change children's and adults' lives, and open up opportunities that may have seemed impossible.

### A partnership with parents

We are committed to sharing our love of reading with our pupils and are dedicated to helping them become the best readers they can be when they leave us in year 6. That commitment needs to continue at home for reading to become second nature and enjoyable for children. It should not be seen as a school subject alone. We want parents to read to their children, to listen to their children read, to model reading themselves and to enjoy the shared experience of books. Support and enthusiasm from parents with their children's reading - in tandem with ours - will be crucial to their success at Woodlands and then beyond. We encourage parents to follow our four reading rules:

### Children's progression

On their journey with us, children will learn to become independent, reflective and critical of a wide range of literature. In the early years, the focus is on recognising and reading words accurately and fluently through daily and systematic teaching of phonics. This approach provides our younger children with the foundations they require to leap successfully into their future learning.

### Our two-book approach

Alongside this, children will develop their comprehension through progressive, skills-focused teaching. In all year groups, children will have two books to read at any one time: a Read Aloud book and a Woodlands Selection book. The Read Aloud books will support their word reading and their fluency and are chosen to closely match pupils' reading levels. The Woodlands Selection books will include Star Books, books in our class reading corners and library. In Key Stage 2, each year group will be given a selection of carefully chosen Star Books, ranging from classic literature to modern texts, to ensure that all children read a range of authors, of differing styles, genres and eras, building their stamina and independence as readers. At all stages, reading attainment is assessed and gaps are addressed quickly and effectively.

### Additional support

We fully understand that reading is a challenging skill to learn and for some pupils it can take longer and may require more support. If a child falls behind in their reading, then we put in place a carefully planned support programme, which will involve additional practice at school and at home.

### Across a rich curriculum

Reading is a cherished part of our daily routine in every year group. We offer reading across all our subjects and choose fiction, non-fiction, poetry, songs and picture books, which inspire, inform and interest our pupils. These rich, challenging texts allow pupils from all backgrounds to be given the vocabulary and knowledge they need to access the greatest and the best that has been thought and said.

## Our four reading rules for parents

- Listen to your child read every day
- Read to your child every day
- Talk to them about what they are reading every day
- Let them see you read frequently