



## Why Reading?



Skills

### A message from Mr Dunne, our KS2 Reading lead:

Our mission at Darlinghurst is to enable all children to be fluent active readers that enjoy reading for pleasure as well as for a purpose.

### Design and Purpose

It is essential that the teaching of Reading at Darlinghurst focuses on developing pupils' competence in the dimensions of word reading and comprehension.

Skilled word reading involves both the speedy working out of the pronunciation of unfamiliar printed words (decoding) and the speedy recognition of familiar printed words. Underpinning both is the understanding that the letters on the page represent the sounds in spoken words. This is why phonics should be emphasised in the early teaching of reading when children start school.

Good comprehension draws from linguistic knowledge (in particular of vocabulary and grammar) and on knowledge of the world. Comprehension skills develop through pupils' experience of high-quality discussion with the teacher, as well as from reading and discussing a range of stories, poems and non-fiction.

All pupils are encouraged to read widely across both fiction and non-fiction to develop their knowledge of themselves and the world in which they live, to establish an appreciation and love of reading, and to gain knowledge across the curriculum. Reading widely and often increases pupils' vocabulary because they encounter words they would rarely hear or use in everyday speech.

Reading also feeds pupils' imagination and opens up a treasure trove of wonder and joy for curious young minds. It is essential that, by the end of their primary education, all pupils are able to read fluently, with confidence and enjoyment.

Our bespoke whole class reading and phonics-layered lessons give the children of Darlinghurst the best chance of excelling in both reading and comprehension.

### Difference

Throughout the phonics programme, the children have learnt to read both real and 'alien' words using their phonic knowledge. They have applied this knowledge to read unknown words and have been successful in the delayed Year 1 phonics screen.

Those children who have been part of the whole class reading programme have developed key skills in analysing and summarising texts. They have learnt how to infer answers using known vocabulary, retrieve information and summarise characters and settings.

By instilling a deep culture of reading and developing skills during reading lessons, children are able to access a wide range of texts linked to other areas of the curriculum. Children can read biographies, diary entries, reports, historical texts, and scientific conclusions to deepen their understanding, knowledge and skills.

Here at Darlinghurst we are developing the love of reading and embedding a 'reading for pleasure' culture. Pete Doherty, the author of 'Little Boat' came into school and ran workshops with the children focusing on creating characters, describing settings and illustrating stories. He also held assemblies, sharing his newest story with us! It really did inspire our children to write their own stories or create unusual characters. We also had a visit from The Book People 'Book Bus'. Every child got to visit the bus throughout the day, hear a story and browse the shelves for a new book. Parents were invited to visit the bus after school and we were able to supplement our book stock using revenue made on the day. As part of our World Book Day celebrations, we participated in a variety of author workshops delivered in partnership with CBBC. These workshops focused on story building, making characters real and understanding settings. These skills were then developed during the writing lessons where children wrote their own stories. The staff donned a disguise as part of our 'Masked Reader' event, leaving the children wondering who was behind the mask!

## Reading Reflections

### Autumn 2022

In the Autumn term, we launched Accelerated Reader with all the new junior children in Year 3 with a great assembly explaining the process of using the reading software both in school and at home. All teachers in KS2 administered the Star Reading Test, which then generated the children's ZPD (zone of proximal development). Once the children had their ZPDs they could then choose books that are within their level. The idea being that this level is accessible and challenging enough to motivate the children in their reading.

This year we have really raised the profile of word counts with a new reward system that is linked to reading word count milestones of 10,000 words (Y3) and 100,000 and a million words for years 3-6. Also linked to the word count, is a new millionaire's board in the hall that indicates each class's word count numbers over the year.

Classes in KS2 have also begun a new reading log folder where children update, with the support of an adult, a log which records the name of each book they read, when it was started, when it was finished and if an AR quiz was completed on it. We found that not all books have an AR quiz so this gives a good indication of all books read rather than just the ones on AR.

To continue our quest of reading for pleasure, in addition to quality whole class reading texts in reading lessons, teachers have been using their Story Time slots to read such great texts as...

Y6 The Bad Beginning (A Series of Unfortunate Events) by Lemony Snicket

Y5 Operation Bunny by Sally Gardner, Lion above the Door by Onjali Q. Rauf

Y4 Varjak's Paw by S.F. Said

Y3 Gran's Gang by Adrian Townsend and How Winston delivered Christmas by Alex T Smith.

To name but a few.

### Spring 2022

At the beginning of March, we celebrated World Book Day 2022 with several whole school activities in and around the week. KS1 and KS2 were set the exciting challenge of writing a book review competition around a favourite book with some fantastic results. The PTA were generous enough to fund prizes for each year group with a £10 book voucher for Jacqson Diego Story Emporium. Reception had a photo competition of reading in unusual places.

On the day, we asked the children to dress up as a favourite book character or to come dressed in their pyjamas to promote bedtime reading. We were blown away with the response as up to 90% of the children came dressed up in some shape or form and the school was a sea of colour in the playground. Teachers were given various options and links to enhance the day in the classroom with the added challenge to read to their class as many times as they could throughout the day. At the end of the week, Jacqui from Jacqson Diego held key stage assemblies promoting a joy of reading, introduced us to several new books hot from the publishers and told us all about Cressida Cowell's Reading Charter.

One amazing environmental event during World Book Day week was a whole-school book swap. This event consisted of every child donating a book to school and by the end of the week having the opportunity to swap it for another book. Even though not all children brought in a book, some children and staff brought in extra so that there was enough to go around for everyone.



### Y5 Book Swap

Class reads this term have been...

Y2-The Giraffe, The Pelly and Me by Roald Dahl

Y3-The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Y4-Podkin One Ear by Kieran Larwood

Y5-Freak the Mighty by Rodman Philbrick

Y6-The Night Bus Hero by Onjali Q. Rauf

### Summer 2022

Liz Allen from the library service introduced the Summer Reading Challenge 2022 'Gadgeteers'. Our children also received free bookmarks and books to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.



### Useful websites

[Accelerated Reader- ARBookFind.co.uk](http://ARBookFind.co.uk)

[Oxford Owl Press- http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)

[Wordsforlife.org.uk- http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/](http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk/)

[BBC Parenting website- www.bbc.co.uk/parenting](http://www.bbc.co.uk/parenting)

[Booktrust- www.booktrust.org.uk](http://www.booktrust.org.uk)

[The Child Literacy Centre- www.childliteracy.com](http://www.childliteracy.com)

[DfES Parents Centre- www.parentscentre.gov.uk](http://www.parentscentre.gov.uk)

[Help them read- www.helpthemread.co.uk](http://www.helpthemread.co.uk)

[Parent Link- www.parentlink.co.uk](http://www.parentlink.co.uk)

[Read Together- www.readtogether.co.uk](http://www.readtogether.co.uk)

[Silly Books- www.sillybooks.net](http://www.sillybooks.net)

[The School Reading List- www.schoolreadinglist.co.uk](http://www.schoolreadinglist.co.uk)

[Books for Topics- www.booksfortopics.com](http://www.booksfortopics.com)

[Southend Library Service- www.southend.gov.uk/library-services](http://www.southend.gov.uk/library-services)

[Jacqson Diego- www.jacsondiego.com](http://www.jacsondiego.com)

### Reading Gallery

