

NEWSLETTER

Placing reading at the heart of our curriculum

At Guildford Grove, we place reading at the heart of our curriculum. Our aim is that all pupils leave our school as confident readers.

In order to achieve this, we prioritise the teaching of phonics and reading every day. Pupils in Reception take part in daily phonics and reading lessons every morning. In Years 1 and 2 our pupils have two daily phonics lessons and a daily reading lesson.

We use Little Wandle as our systematic synthetic phonics scheme and we are proud of the progress our pupils are making in their phonics and reading as a result.

Our team of teachers and teaching assistants (TAs) work relentlessly to ensure all pupils keep up with their phonics. We have a huge team of TAs who also provide additional support for those pupils with gaps in their phonics knowledge whether it is our 'Keep Up' team who help our pupils in Reception and Year 1/2 to go back and relearn key phonemes (sounds) or our 'Rapid Catch Up' team who support our KS2 pupils every morning.

All our staff are passionate about helping our pupils to achieve their potential and we thank them for their hard work and the amazing support they provide for our pupils.

Reading at Key Stage 2

When our pupils graduate from the phonics programme, they start to access our Master Reader lessons. These take place in class with their class teacher. Pupils across Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 focus on high quality texts and follow a structured model throughout the week. In the Spring Term, Master Readers is introduced in Year 2. Please ask your child about their master reader lessons and what book they are learning at the moment!



Our amazing teams of adults who lead our catch up and keep up groups

What can parents/carers do to help their child with phonics and reading at home?

- All parents/carers **hear their child read their reading book at least three times** over a week.
- Pupils in Little Wandle phonics will have a book that has been matched to their assessments for you to read to them at home. These pupils will also have a library book.
- Pupils who have just graduated from the phonics programme and still require some extra reading support will have their 'rainbow reader' book.
- All other pupils should bring home a book from their class book corner.

Don't forget our Reception/KS1 parent/carer coffee afternoon on Monday 21st October at 2pm!

School Council and Play Leaders

We are really proud to have a school council at Guildford Grove. Our **school council** are a group of pupils from Year 5 and Year 6 who apply for their positions and meet weekly to look at ways they can contribute to making improvements to our school. Last week, I was delighted to meet our new chairs and vice chairs of the council.

At Guildford Grove, we develop leaders at all levels and not only do we have young leaders in our school council but we have also had a number of Year 6 pupils trained as **sports leaders** recently. These pupils will be running games on the playground at lunchtimes and we are looking forward to seeing the fun our pupils will have playing these games!



**Non uniform day - Thursday
24th October**

WACKY HAIR DAY

Children can come to school in their own clothes on Thursday.

Please bring in £1.

Children can also spray colour into their hair, wear a brightly coloured wig or style it in a crazy way for £2!

Parents'/carers' consultations

Many thanks for those parents/carers who attended our Autumn Term parent/carer consultations. We hope you found them useful and have a better idea of how to support your child with their learning. If you were unable to attend please speak to your child's classteacher.

Balancing screen time!

One of the things we are noticing more and more at Guildford Grove, is how tired many of our pupils are during the school day.

We know that screen time is part of all of our lives now but it is important to ensure that pupils are getting the right balance and that time on screens is not negatively impacting on their ability to get physical exercise, to socialise or to get the sleep they need.

Attached to the newsletter is some really helpful advice to parents/carers about getting the right balance!

Report an absence on the studybugs app