

Reading for pleasure at The Avenue School



We recognise that reading for pleasure directly links to our pupil's success throughout their time at school and beyond the classroom, supporting their quality of life now and into adulthood.

We firmly believe that reading for pleasure supports our pupils to develop their wellbeing, empathy, connection to others, their ability to gain insight into the world and skills in independence.

We believe if pupils enjoy sharing books and reading, they become better readers.

At The Avenue School we promote reading for pleasure in a number of ways:

- **We value the books pupils choose to read** - we are continually building a high-quality stock of books and multi-sensory books, and if a pupil has a special interest, we make sure to stock books to fuel that passion.
- **Setting aside time to read** - we promote time for reading in the school day, whether this is story time for the whole class, individual reading time, audio stories, personalised books, sensory stories or story massage, we love it if our pupils and our staff get a chance to read or be read to in the day.
- **We adapt books to the needs of our pupils** – we promote a culture of reading by bringing the text to life, using props and visuals. We engage our pupils in sensory stories: Bag Books and Irresistible storytelling and support them to participate interactively through voice, emotions and actions. We make our own books with simpler text using Communicate in Print.
- **School Library** - we timetabled weekly class visits to the Avenue Library and we encourage our classes to use this time to work on developing our pupil's library skills.
- **Local library visits** – where appropriate, we encourage our classes to make use of our local libraries to give them broader access to types of texts and to help them build skills in independence whilst finding books they enjoy.
- **Reading Challenges** - our whole school reading for pleasure initiative ensures every child has access to a book that can be read to them or that they can read, each week. Pupils receive a special *award* when they have read or have had read to them a set amounts of books.
- **Celebrations and special events** - we continue developing a Year of Reading at The Avenue where every month our classes participate in a different reading activity or event.

World Book Day is one of the highlights of our school year! All of our reading events for pupils helps to broaden their exposure to different books, and promote positive communication about reading.