**Reading and Phonics at Rigby Hall**

At Rigby Hall we understand that reading is a fundamental skill that underpins almost everything that we do. We also understand that it can be a huge challenge for our children so therefore we have a wide range of strategies we can use to support the children to achieve the skills they need to read effectively.

We also know that reading for pleasure makes the biggest difference to your children’s reading abilities. We believe that reading should be an enjoyable experience where children are able to enjoy a variety of genres, discover new learning and stimulate their imagination and curiosity. Reading is one of the main key areas we teach daily. Children will take part in individual reading as well as guided reading activities weekly. We offer a range of interventions for children who need a little more support and online reading activities and incentives to encourage the love of reading.

**Who can I speak to about reading?**

Your child’s class teacher will be able to answer any questions about your child’s reading. You can also speak to Mrs Kelly Ferran who leads Literacy throughout the school if you need further support.

**How we teach reading at Rigby Hall**

At Rigby Hall School we follow the Letters and Sounds programme to teach phonics as well as a talk for writing programme to encourage the love for reading. We teach a sound a week using visual, movement and sound. Children take part in a wide variety of fun activities to support them in recognising, reading and writing the sound. We also incorporate sign-along and Pecs into phonics to ensure phonics is accessible to all. As well as phonics we incorporate sight reading and visual skills strategies for those children who struggle with the mechanics of phonics.

Our phonics aim to build on children’s speaking and listening skills in their own right as well as prepare children for learning to read by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. Children need all these skills for independence and exams in Key Stage 4 and 5. We place children in ability groups to allow them to reach their full potential but plan for children’s individual needs within the group using a wide range of strategies. We also have celebration days such as Roald Dahl day and World Book day to promote the love of reading.

What you can do to help…

Reading with your child is vital. Research shows that it's the single most important thing you can do to help your child's education. It's best to read little and often, so try to put aside some time for it **every day.** Our talk for writing programme highlights the importance of sharing stories every night if possible.

Children should be encouraged to read aloud and read on their own, but being read to is really important too, so don’t overlook the bedtime story! Focus on encouraging your child to read fluently and with expression, understanding more complex plots and broadening their vocabulary as well as building an understanding of how punctuation and grammar are used.

And most importantly, continue to enjoy what you do together, give lots of encouragement and expand the reading experience to keep your child switched on. Don’t forget – if they are reading something they are not enjoying - STOP!! Choose something different. Take a look at some of the weblinks below for inspiration:

* [Books For Keeps](http://booksforkeeps.co.uk/)
* [Booktrust](http://www.booktrust.org.uk/)
* [Chatterbooks](http://readingagency.org.uk/children/quick-guides/chatterbooks/)
* [First News](http://www.firstnews.co.uk/)
* [Guardian Children's Books](http://www.guardian.co.uk/childrens-books-site)
* [Just Imagine](http://justimaginestorycentre.co.uk/)
* [The National Literacy Trust](http://www.literacytrust.org.uk/)
* [LoveReading4Kids](http://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/)
* [Reading Zone](http://www.readingzone.com/home.php)
* [Summer Reading Challenge](http://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/)
* [World Book Day](http://www.worldbookday.com/)