Writing and Talking Linked to Reading
Our reading programme stresses the need for children to be talking and writing about the quality text they have read in order to improve their ability to identify and comprehend the main messages within the text.

At Home
You should encourage your child to read at home and for sustained periods of time, ensuring they are covering the chapter(s), which have been identified that week in school. You could assist them if they are unsure about the pronunciation or meaning of a word, by encouraging them to make use of the Word Attack Strategies. You could ask them about what happens in the chapters they have read to check their understanding. Having texts at home or through visiting the library can support your child in their development of reading and writing.
**Introduction**
The aim of this leaflet is to provide you with information about how your child is taught reading and writing at school and to allow you to support your child at home with this.

**Principles of the Programme**
The programme adopts an integrated approach and therefore has a direct link to the spelling and phonics programme. Children are taught to apply their knowledge of spelling and phonics within the context of reading and writing.

**In Class**
Children are explicitly taught through reading skills during sessions which focus on before, during and after reading a book or chapter. Children are taught the following key skills across the school week:
1. Fluency
2. Comprehension
3. Writing linked to reading/novel
4. Talking and listening linked to reading/novel

The programme adopts a multisensory, problem solving approach which is well structured and interactive.

The reading books selected have been identified as quality texts providing opportunities for reflection and discussion, rather than being from a traditional reading scheme. In this way children are exposed to a wider variety of authors, styles and contexts. The books are organised into levels. This is known as ‘banding’. Each band is represented by a different colour. Within each band there will be a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts that allow the children to experience many styles of writing. As a school we will have a termly focus on fiction, non-fiction or poetry.

**Comprehension Strategies**
A substantial amount of teaching and learning in reading focuses on developing children’s higher order thinking and critical literacy skills. These skills are developed through the teaching of the eleven comprehension strategies:
- Predicting
- Connecting
- Comparing
- Scanning
- Self Questioning
- Skimming
- Visualising
- Determining Importance
- Inferring
- Summarising & Paraphrasing
- Synthesising

During fluency the children will continue to refer to and use the Word Attack Strategies when they come across unfamiliar words.

**Word Attack Strategies**
- Look at the first letter
- Sound out the first few letters
- Break the word into syllables (chunks)
- Look at the last letters
- Read the sentence again
- Look at the picture
- Look at the shape of the word