

## Intent

At Newlands Primary Academy, we believe that learning to read is one of the most vital skills our children will develop. As a newly opened school currently welcoming our first EYFS cohort, we are committed to laying strong foundations for **confident, fluent** reading and fostering a **lifelong love** of books.

We are proud to be a *reading school*, where reading for **pleasure** and storytelling is central to our curriculum design. Our approach is research-informed, highlighting the importance of systematic synthetic phonics (SSP), spoken language, and rich narrative experiences in early reading development. We aim to ensure that every child begins their reading journey with the tools to decode words, comprehend texts, and enjoy reading for both pleasure and learning.

Through **immersive experiences** such as Drawing Club and Helicopter Stories, we bring language and stories to life, nurturing imagination, vocabulary, and a deep emotional connection to books. These experiences sit alongside our phonics provision to create a balanced, language-rich environment.

## Implementation

We follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised programme, a DfE-validated SSP scheme, with fidelity. This ensures consistency in teaching and resources, as recommended by the Reading Framework. Daily phonics sessions in EYFS help children begin to ‘crack the code’ of reading, supported by regular assessment and targeted interventions to keep all children on track. In EYFS, children take part in three adult-led reading practice sessions each week, using fully decodable books matched precisely to their current phonics stage, helping them develop as confident and fluent readers. These sessions focus on:

1. **Decoding** – developing accurate word reading
2. **Prosody** – reading with expression and understanding
3. **Comprehension** – discussing the text to deepen understanding

## Reading Curriculum at Newlands Primary Academy

These structured sessions are delivered by trained staff and ensure that every child can practice and apply their phonics knowledge in a supportive, consistent way. The same book is used across the three sessions to build fluency and confidence.

Books are then sent home so children can celebrate their reading success with family, reinforcing learning and nurturing a lifelong love of reading for pleasure. Additional reading opportunities are provided through daily story time, access to high-quality texts in the classroom, and shared reading experiences.

Our curriculum also includes storytelling-based approaches such as Drawing Club and Helicopter Stories, which allow children to explore narrative structure, character, and language in creative and meaningful ways. These activities promote oral storytelling, imaginative thinking, reading for pleasure, and a lifelong love of language that enriches early reading development.

### Impact

Our goal is for every child to leave EYFS with a secure foundation in phonics and a love of reading. In line with the Reading Framework, we aim for all children to **keep up rather than catch up**, ensuring that teaching time is sufficient and effective.

Children will be able to:

- Decode words confidently and accurately
- Talk about stories they enjoy
- Begin to make independent reading choices
- Engage with books across the curriculum
- Express themselves through storytelling and imaginative play

This early enthusiasm and skill will support their transition into Key Stage 1 and beyond, setting them up for success across all areas of learning. **As a reading school, we are committed to nurturing readers who are not only skilled but joyful, curious, and connected to the world of stories.**