



Grove Lea
Primary School

Grove Lea Primary School

Grove Terrace,
Hemsworth,
Pontefract,
West Yorkshire,
WF9 4BQ.

01977 722240

headteacher@grovelea.wakefield.sch.uk

Oxford Reading Tree Scheme. Information for Parents.

Ask any parent of a Reception child about Biff, Chip and Kipper, and they'll know exactly who you're talking about. But just how do primary school reading schemes work, and how can you tell if your child is progressing at the right rate?

At Grove Lea Primary School, children follow the Oxford Reading Tree programme. "The books are new, bright and fresh, and the stories are about events that children can relate to," explains literacy coordinator Mrs. Perry.

How is the scheme devised and organised?

Reading schemes are developed in conjunction with literacy experts. Oxford Reading Tree, for example, is supported by Debbie Hepplewhite, creator of the synthetic phonics programme that is used in schools. The schemes begin in the Foundation Stage with picture and conversation books. The books then progressively become more difficult. 'For example, Key Stage 1 books are written with a mix of high-frequency and decodable words to develop a range of reading strategies, while Key Stage 2 books cover a wide range of genres and subjects, linking to the curriculum.'

The children at Grove Lea are regularly assessed on their reading by their teacher. The assessments are based on lots of different areas of reading for example: understanding of the book, word recognition, fluency, expression and inference. The skills build up as the children move through the scheme. The children never know that they are being assessed; all that they think is

happening is that they are reading to the teacher. The children are then placed at a level within the scheme. Children can move quickly through the levels or are given more books at that level to reinforce or to give them more practice.

The books within the Oxford Reading Tree also have offshoots alongside the core texts. For example in addition to the classic Biff, Chip and Kipper texts, Oxford Reading Tree offers other strands, such as Songbirds Phonics, Snapdragon variety fiction, and Fireflies (non-fiction, to develop children's reading range)

What do the different levels mean?

Children learn to read at their own pace, but as a guide, the most popular reading schemes are broken down as follows:

Oxford Reading Tree

Stage 1	3.5 to 4.5 years
Stage 1+	4.5 to 5 years
Stage 2	4.5 to 5 years
Stage 3	5 to 5.5 years
Stage 4	5 to 5.5 years
Stage 5	5.5 to 6 years
Stage 6	6 to 6.5 years

Stage 7	6.5 to 7 years
Stage 8	7 to 7.5 years
Stage 9	7.5 to 8 years

How can you help if your child is lagging behind?

Children learn to read at different rates, so reading should never be competitive. If your child is struggling, don't push him/her to read, but keep reading to them, and talk about what you have read. This will help them to become inquisitive about books and want to read for themselves.

How will your child make the transition to normal books?

Reading high-quality books is the best way to encourage a love of reading." So at Grove Lea the children always have a reading scheme book and a book of their own choosing from either the classroom or our school library. We also encourage the children to visit the local library. Our foundation stage children visit the library and all other children once every half term. Every classroom has a reading area which reflects the children's interests/topic. Here the children can choose and share their own books. Also much of their work is based upon a quality text e.g. In year 1 *The Jolly Postman* encouraged the children to learn and read traditional tales. In Year 2 *Dogger* by Dorothy Edwards was used for descriptive writing. In Year 3 *In to the forest* by Anthony Browne was the basis for their science and outside learning. In Year 4 *Nfertiti's diary* inspired their learning about Ancient Egypt. In Year 5 the classic poem *The lady of Shalott* made the children use their knowledge of King Arthur the knights of the round table. In Year 6 *Rose Blanche* was the stimulus for their work on World War 2.