



Middlewich Primary School



Reading

At Middlewich Primary School all pupils are encouraged to develop an enthusiasm and love for reading. Children learn to appreciate a wide range of texts and they use their reading to deepen their knowledge and understanding cross the curriculum.

At key stage 1 and in reception reading is taught in a daily session using Oxford Reading Tree and Collins reading schemes. Texts are carefully book banded so children are reading at the appropriate level. As they move to key stage 2, children are encouraged to read a wider range of books. We like all pupils to read at home every night. This helps children not only develop fluency but also builds a love of, and interest in, reading. We know that those children who read widely are more likely to achieve success at school.

Phonics, which is the building block to reading and spelling, is taught daily using Jolly Phonics in reception and using the national curriculum guidance key stage 1. These skills are reinforced in key stage 2 using THRASS, a programme for teaching handwriting, reading and spelling.

'Seven before Seven'

'Seven before Seven' is our challenge for the pupils of Middlewich Primary School. We would like every pupil to read, or have read to them, seven classic novels, by seven different authors, before they leave year 6 and enter year 7 at high school. Meet the challenge and you will achieve the Owl Award and win a prize.

What is a classic novel?

We believe a classic novel is a story that has stood the test of time. It may represent the period of history it was written in but contains themes that are still relevant to our lives today.

Such books may include: *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett or *Peter Pan* by J.M. Barrie

Children may also enjoy reading modern classics within this challenge. These are stories that have been written more recently but also have that same ability to help us understand and make sense of the world we live in.

Such texts may include: *Stig of the Dump* by Clive King, *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien or *Charlotte's Webb* by E.B. White.

Alternatively, you may have a book in mind that you feel is a classic story. Provide a good explanation as to why you think this and we will consider it.

Here are some of our suggestions:

What Katy Did by Susan Coolidge (*Katy Carr misbehaves with awful consequences*)

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell (*The autobiography of a horse in Victorian England*)

Fairy Tales by Hans Christian Anderson (Timeless enchantment with messages for us all)

Pollyanna by Eleanor H. Porter (Pollyanna plays the Glad Game and charms the residents of a small American town)

The Story of Doctor Dolittle by Hugh Lofting (The man who can talk to animals has adventures all around the world)

Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lindgren (A little girl has fun living in a house with her horse and pet monkey - and no adults to tell her what to do!)

Finn Family Moomintroll by Tove Jansson (Magic in Moomin valley with the hobgoblin's hat)

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis (Travel through the back of the wardrobe to the land of Narnia)

James and The Giant Peach by Roald Dahl (A magic peach saves a mistreated boy from his horrible aunts)

A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula K Le Guin (Fantasy and adventure, and growing up in a school for wizards!)

Tom's Midnight Garden by Philippa Pearce (Two lonely children make friends in this gentle time-travel adventure)

John Diamond by Leon Garfield (A desperate search through dark and dangerous Victorian London)

Five on a Treasure Island by Enid Blyton (The first Famous Five Adventure - with lashings of ginger beer!)

Winnie the Pooh by A.A. Milne (Honey, Heffalumps and a bear of very small brain in the 100 Aker Wood)

White Fang by Jack London (A wolf-dog's survival in the wilds of Canada)

The Railway Children by E. Nesbit (After their father is falsely imprisoned, three children find adventure near the railway)

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz by L. Frank Baum (Sheer delight and so much better than the film!)

The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame (Mole, Rat, Badger and Toad picnic and mess about in boats)

Heidi by Johanna Spyri (Life with Grandfather in a Swiss alpine village)

Little House in the Big Woods by Laura Ingalls Wilder (A pioneer family live a simple but sometimes frightening life on the American frontier)

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling (The start of Harry's magical life at Hogwarts School)

The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster (Milo's adventures in the Kingdom of Wisdom. Can he bring back Rhyme and Reason?)

Just So Stories by Rudyard Kipling (Stories of animals such as how the elephant got his trunk and why the camel has a hump told in wonderfully poetic language)

The Canterville Ghost by Oscar Wilde (A ghost meets his match when the Otis family move into the castle)

Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift (Shipwrecked on an island where people are so small they can fit on your hand)

Little Lord Fauntleroy by Francis Hodgson Burnett (Cedric Errol inherits a vast English estate and teaches his proud grandfather the importance of kindness)

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll (Follow Alice down the rabbit hole to meet fantastical characters such as the Mad Hatter, the Cheshire Cat and the Queen of Hearts)

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens (Ebenezer Scrooge is taught to love Christmas by the ghosts of Christmas past, Christmas present and Christmas yet to come)

The Little Prince by Antoine de Saint-Exupery (A pilot crashes in the desert and meets a boy whose stories bring wisdom to us all)

The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams (Can a stuffed toy ever become 'real?')

Moonfleet by J.M. Falkner (Smuggling, storms and the ghost of Blackbeard on the Dorset coast)

Goodnight Mr Tom by Michelle Magorian (A cantankerous old man and a frightened boy save each other as war rages over Britain)

Carrie's War by Nina Bawden (Three children are evacuated to Wales where they discover the secrets of Druid's Bottom)

The Borrowers by Mary Norton (Miniscule Arriety Clock lives with her tiny family by 'borrowing' from the 'human beans')

The Silver Sword by Ian Serraillier (The Balick family and the brave pickpocket Jan journey through war torn Europe in the hope that they can be reunited)

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott (The four, very different, March sisters grow up together during the American civil war)

Around the World in Eighty Days by Jules Verne (Can Phileas Fogg do it and win his bet of £20,000?)

The Indian in the Cupboard by Lynne Reid Banks (A boy gets a cupboard for his ninth birthday, but it turns out to be the best present ever)

Children will need to complete a log in our 'owl reading journal' (on the classic novel display by the main hall) when they have completed each text. Happy reading!