



English at Gig Mill Primary School.



**A love of reading is the biggest indicator
of future academic success.**

OECD (The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development)



Reading

At Gig Mill, we start by sharing our love of reading with all of our pupils. Children are encouraged to develop their own love of reading by having the opportunity to choose and share engaging, inviting books. Children are read to daily in class, ensuring that they are exposed to a variety of authors and challenging, thoughtful texts. All of our teachers are role models that demonstrate a positive attitude towards reading and promote the joy of reading for pleasure. Each class has an attractive, appealing book corner where children are taught to browse for books, revisit ones they have heard read in class and share books they would recommend to others.

We encourage all pupils to continue their reading journey at home choosing books with adult guidance that will support and continue to build upon their decoding and comprehension skills. Our priority is to support a partnership between home and school to develop and enhance reading for all children. At Gig Mill, we use a range of reading books that have been carefully selected to match the reading needs of the pupils. The children start reading books in Reception that follow the Little Wandle Phonics programme. As children move up through the school, we continue to support reading with a range of age appropriate books and supplementary materials, as well as books by key inspirational authors. This enables older pupils to read widely and deeply and encourages lifelong reading habits.

Phonics

At Gig Mill we aim for all of our children to become successful readers, who love reading. In order to decode (read) words, children are taught through a systematic phonic approach following the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised scheme. Daily, discrete phonics sessions are taught in Reception and Year 1, these sessions are fast paced, interactive and challenging. Children are encouraged to apply their phonics skills across all curriculum areas in both reading and writing. Through the use of the robust and systematic teaching of Little Wandle phonics, pupils are provided with the reading skills needed to make an effective transition into independent reading.

The Little Wandle website provides resources to help you support your child with saying their sounds and writing their letters. There are also some useful videos so that you can see how phonics is taught at school and feel confident about supporting your child when reading at home. Use the link below to visit the Little Wandle website.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

The Little Wandle phonics programme also supports children in the early years and Key Stage 1 to develop their writing skills in daily lessons.

Writing

At Gig Mill we value the strong connection that reading and writing shares within all curriculum areas. Our English curriculum is carefully planned to create opportunities for children to write with consideration to the reader and read while considering the effect the writer had intended. We aim for all children to be equipped with the skills and knowledge that they need to be able to communicate their own thoughts and ideas through writing. Our approach to writing encourages a broad and balanced programme of study, which enables children to produce sustained pieces of writing across a number of topics, subjects and genres. Through the writing opportunities we give to the children, we aim to engage and motivate pupils to take pride in their writing and celebrate their writing successes.

Handwriting across school is taught using the Kinetic Letters teaching programme. Pupils are taught using a systematic and energising whole-school approach, leading to fluent, legible joined writing in Key Stage 2.