



Headteacher: Mrs S Hewitt

Thorpe Hesley Primary School
 Upper Wortley Road, Thorpe Hesley, Rotherham, S61 2PL
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 thorpehesleyprimary.rotherham.sch.uk/
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Monday 9th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

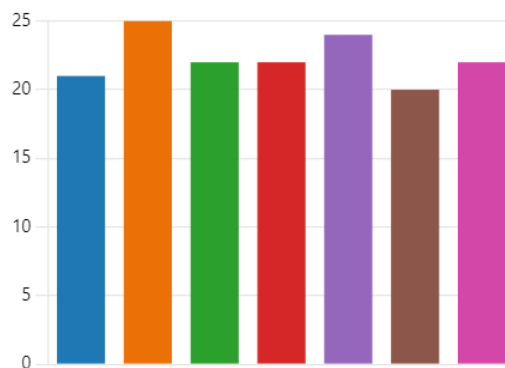
Thank you to everyone who completed the recent questionnaire about reading in school. As you know, reading is something that is extremely important to us at Thorpe Hesley Primary so it was great to see so many of our parents and carers taking part in the survey and we really appreciate your feedback.

We have put together the following feedback from your responses.

1. In which year groups do you have children at our school? (0 point)

[More Details](#)

● Early Years	21
● Year 1	25
● Year 2	22
● Year 3	22
● Year 4	24
● Year 5	20
● Year 6	22

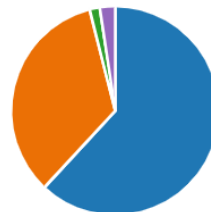


It was great to see responses representing every year group in school so thank you to those who took the time to complete this survey.

2. School encourage your child to have a love of reading (0 point)

[More Details](#)

● Strongly agree	78
● Agree	43
● Disagree	2
● Strongly disagree	0
● Neutral	3



We are delighted to see that 96% of respondents agreed that school encourage your children to have a love of reading. We put lots in place to ensure that this is the case, including:

- Developing the library to ensure that this is an inviting space that is utilised by our children and families. The library is currently open every Tuesday and Thursday straight after school as well as having a KS2 Library club on a Tuesday lunchtime and a KS1 Library club on a



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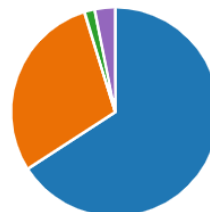
Monday and Wednesday lunchtime. Teachers are also encouraged to visit the library with their classes as well as children having joint sessions with their Reading Buddy classes, where children of different ages are invited to come together and share books.

- Developing reading spines in every year group, i.e. collections of high-quality fiction, non-fiction, picture and poetry texts that have been carefully chosen by teachers for our children and that cover a huge range of themes and cultures, from old classics to new upcoming authors.
- Running our first ever Story Festival where all children across school spent the week creating a performance of a traditional tale, writing scripts, designing and creating costumes and props and sharing their favourite tales with each other. We are excited for this to be an annual event at THPS!
- Developing our phonics provision in Reception and KS1 using Little Wandle to ensure that all of our children receive the best possible start to their reading journey.
- Daily Story Time in every year group. A truly special time for teachers to share a love of reading with their class.
- Using high-quality texts to enhance our curriculum teaching and texts that provide hooks into writing.
- Further developing our army of Reading Volunteers, providing induction and training to ensure that they feel confident supporting our readers in school.
- Inviting parents in to Stay and Learn sessions in every year group with a particular on reading and/or phonics to keep parents up to date with how these are taught in school and offer strategies to support parents with home reading.
- Regularly seeking and responding to pupil voice to ensure that we are doing all that we can to meet the needs of all of our children.
- Having access to books outside at breaktimes. This is in the form of reading dens in the Infants and reading boxes in the Juniors.
- This year some teachers have launched a 'Reading Scrapbook' which your child may bring home to add their reading recommendations to!

3. School encourages your child to read daily (0 point)

[More Details](#)

● Strongly agree	83
● Agree	37
● Disagree	2
● Strongly disagree	0
● Neutral	4



95% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed. There are two parts to this question: encouragement of reading in school and encouragement of reading at home.

Within school all children are given opportunities to read every day. All classes have daily group guided reading or whole-class reciprocal reading sessions, as well as daily story time which is an



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opportunity to share and discuss stories as a whole class. There are also lots of opportunities for reading built into the wider curriculum, with children encouraged to read both fiction and non-fiction texts linked to their current topics and interests.

Children are also encouraged to read at home at least three times per week. Children can earn a sticker in their planner if they read three times per week or two stickers if they exceed this. Each class has a target number of stickers for each half term. As a class effort, the children read regularly to earn as many stickers as possible. When the target is achieved, the whole class will receive a reading reward of their choice such as a visit to the library or 'booknic' outdoors. The reading percentages for each class are also shared and celebrated each week in assemblies and on the newsletter.

4. Do you feel your child is able to read confidently the book which they bring home?

[More Details](#)

Strongly agree	63
Agree	42
Disagree	5
Strongly disagree	0
Neutral	16



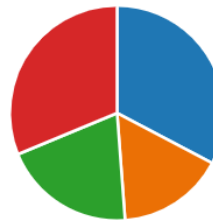
83.3% of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with this statement with nearly 4% disagreeing. Following our recent fundraising, we have just invested a large amount of money in new Little Wandle home reading books which were delivered at the end of last week and will be starting to come home with your children from this week. This will make a huge difference to our ability to send children home with the best possible books for their reading ability and phonics stage. The Little Wandle scheme which we follow in school advocates that it is imperative for children to practise independent reading with fully decodable books which are matched to their secure phonic knowledge. This enables them to use the GPCs (i.e. letters or strings of letters that they can match to sounds) that they know to decode the words and, with practise, develop fluency when reading. The phonics books that your children will be bringing home going forwards will be the same books that they have been using that week in their reading sessions within school. They will, therefore, already be familiar with these books so the focus at home can be on building fluency and expression. You will be receiving a letter later this week explaining in a bit more detail how these new books will work.

As children get further up school, and once they are secure with their phonics, they will be encouraged to bring home age appropriate books from their year group reading spine. These will have been carefully chosen by their teachers and include high quality fiction, non-fiction, picture and poetry texts that cover a huge range of themes and cultures, from old classics to new upcoming authors. Children who are still on their phonics journey are encouraged to bring home a reading spine book in addition to their phonetically decodable book to share with adults at home.

5. If school were to hold workshops to help you in supporting your child's reading journey, which would be of interest?

[More Details](#)

● Comprehension	69
● Early Reading	34
● Phonics	42
● Reading for pleasure	66

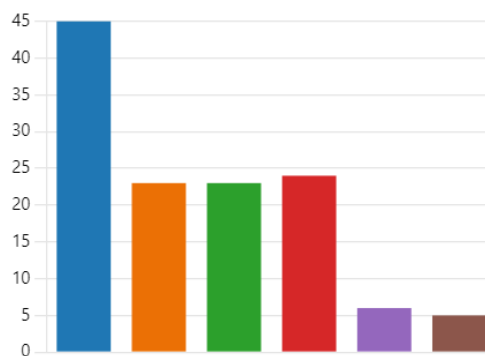


A few of you did note that you were very satisfied with the Reading Stay and Learns that are currently offered by school but there was no way to indicate this or skip this question. The most popular topics for future workshops were Comprehension (55% of respondents) and Reading for Pleasure (52% of respondents). This has been fed back to teachers for when they are planning future Stay and Learns and for consideration when planning homework tasks and information to send home.

6. School provides your child with both fiction and non-fiction texts to read (0 point)

[More Details](#)

● Always	45
● Very often	23
● Often	23
● Sometimes	24
● Rarely	6
● Never	5



Over half of respondents (56%) felt that school provide their child with non-fiction texts to read at least often, if not more. That does, however, mean that 44% did not, with almost 4% responding with never. The reading spines in every year group provide a mixture of fiction, non-fiction and poetry books and children are given the opportunity to choose the books that appeal to them. The Little Wandle books also offer a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts.

Children are also given lots of opportunities to read non-fiction texts within school, particularly as part of the wider curriculum linking to the topics that they are studying each half term. Remember, the school library is also available for children to visit where there are a wide range of high quality, non-fiction texts available to appeal to all interests.



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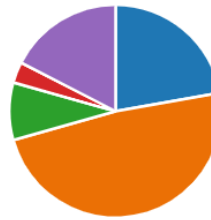
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If you feel that your child isn't bringing non-fiction texts home, please speak to their class teacher who will be able to support your child with this.

7. School informs you of the progress your child is making in reading (0 point)

[More Details](#)

● Strongly agree	28
● Agree	61
● Disagree	11
● Strongly disagree	4
● Neutral	22



We were disappointed with the responses to this question, with almost 12% of respondents disagreeing or strongly disagreeing and a further 17% unsure. We always try hard to keep our parents informed of their children's progress in all areas, not just reading. It may be partly due to the timing as there has not yet been a Parents' Evening this year so we are hoping that you will feel more clued up on your child's reading progress following Parent Consultations this Wednesday. If there is anything that you want to know about your child's reading then please do remember to ask your child's class teacher.

At THPS we provide frequent opportunities to update parents on your child's progress including:

- An insight into your child's phonics and reading learning within school through our Phonics and our Reading Stay and Learns in every year group.
- Teacher and Teaching Assistant comments in School Planners will give you an idea of how your child is progressing in their reading and what they are particularly focussing on within school.
- We run two Parents' Consultations across the year where you can discuss your child's progress with their class teacher, as well as a further optional Parent Consultation at the end of the year.
- A mini-report for each child following the Spring Term assessments which shows your child's attainment and progress in all areas and a final report at the end of each academic year.

If at any point during the year you feel like you would like to know more about your child's progress in any area, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher who will be happy to arrange a time to discuss this with you in more depth.



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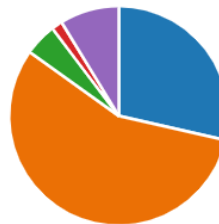
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8. School provides parents/carers with information of how to support children in reading e.g -
Website, parent workshops, parent evenings

[More Details](#)

[Insights](#)

Strongly agree	36
Agree	71
Disagree	6
Strongly disagree	2
Neutral	11



We were pleased to see that 85% of respondents have found the information that school share with you about how to support your children in reading useful. It may be that those who were unsure or who disagreed have not yet had the opportunity to attend a Reading Stay and Learn or access information through our website. We are aware that the timing of this questionnaire meant that many year groups had not yet delivered their Reading Stay and Learns (all year groups have them scheduled for this half term) and you are yet to attend a Parents' Consultation this year.

Again, we would encourage you to ask your child's class teacher at your Parents' Consultation this week if you would like some further advice on how to support your child with their reading. We would also encourage you to look at the English section of our School Website. On here there is a page dedicated to Reading as well as one dedicated to Phonics. Here you will find: videos aimed specifically at parents about supporting your child with different aspects of phonics; a range of useful Little Wandle resources for you to use at home; a copy of the slides from the recent Little Wandle Phonics Workshop run within school; a link to the Little Wandle website; information and tips about home reading and book recommendations from lots of our staff. All of our individual class pages also contain links to useful websites and online games which will can be accessed by your child to support their reading.

Finally, thank you for those of you who took the time to leave comments. There were so many supportive comments about the approach to reading within school. These included:

"I think the school does a fabulous job of promoting reading. We love to visit the School library, it is such a lovely area and has a huge variety of books for the children to choose from."

"The new library layout is great."

"I think school can't do anything better. They're amazing."

"My children love to read and part of this is due to the help of the school: in rewarding their reading and developing their love for it."



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“I have always been happy that my child gets enough encouragement in all her learning. I have also found teachers prepared to set a bit extra where I have thought she's not up to standard.”

There were also some good suggestions and ideas that we are keen to consider going forwards. These included: having more posters with reading recommendations displayed in classrooms and around school (these are currently available on our website); providing parents with a list of book recommendations for children's age range with different genres/fiction/non-fiction; running author events and book clubs. We have taken these ideas on board.

Yours sincerely,

Sarah Hewitt (Headteacher), Ashleigh Blakemore (English Lead) and Faye Finney (Phonics and Early Reading Lead)



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