Walton's approach to Reading (KS2)

Introduction

At Walton, we love to encourage our children to read both for pleasure and to improve their skills when interpreting a range of texts. To promote individual reading at home, we use **Accelerated Reader** as this helps us to assess exactly what age our children are reading at and identify areas for their development. In school, we teach reading skills through **Whole Class Guided Reading** lessons, aiming to expose the children to a wide range of text types and genres.

Accelerated Reader

From year 2 onwards, children begin their Accelerated Reader journey. Accelerated Reader aims to assess your child's reading age and identify areas of development in reading skills against the objectives of the National Curriculum. Reading ages are assessed through the completion of a Star Test (an online reading test that the children take at least 4 times per academic year) which generates a ZPD number.

Star Reading Tests

A Star Test is an online tool that assesses your child's reading age. It is highly accurate and ensures that your child is reading books that both strengthen their skills and challenges them further. There are 34 questions on a Star Reader Test and each of them is computer adaptive. This means that the difficulty of each question is based on how well the previous question was answered.

The first 11 questions are based on children's knowledge of vocabulary; the rest of the questions are based on reading skills such as retrieval and inference.

The Star test should take between 20-30 minutes to complete and is done completely independently.

ZPD Numbers

After your child has completed a Star Test, a ZPD number is generated. ZPD stands for Zone of Proximal Development and is based on what areas of reading your child needs to strengthen and where they need to be challenged.

An example of a ZPD number could be: 4.1- 6.2. This means that your child can choose a book that is labelled with a number within this range. Any books towards the bottom end of the range will strengthen areas of your child's reading ability; numbers towards the top of the range will focus on areas for challenge.

Whole Class Guided Reading

It is vital for the children to learn the skills of reading so that they can enjoy lots of different types of fiction and non-fiction books. We teach whole class reading lessons at Walton 3 times per week to ensure that all of the children are being exposed to the explicit teaching of reading skills. Reading lessons for each week are planned and taught to focus on one or more of the reading skills that the children are expected to learn. Lessons are planned either around the class text (for the topic) or extracts of other texts both fiction and non-fiction.

Reading Skills

We use Reading VIPERS to ensure that the children are explicitly taught how to delve deeper into the meaning of lots of different texts and genres.

Vocabulary

- Understand the vocabulary in a text and explain the meaning of words.
- Decipher the meaning of unfamiliar words based on what the text is about.
- Find and copy words in a text that mean the same as something else.

Inference

- 'Read between the lines' to understand how a character might be feeling.
- Form positive and negative impressions of character and setting based on description.
- Understand how the author wants the reader to feel based on the use of language.

Predict

- Predict what might happen next in a story based on the events that have already happened.
- Predict where the next part of the story will take place.
- Make links between characters relationships.

Explain

- Explain why something has happened in a story based on what they have read.
- Explain why a character might be feeling the way they are.
- Explain what impression the author wanted to give the reader.
- Find evidence in a piece of text to support an assumption.

Retrieve

- Answer questions about a text by retrieving statements.
- Find and copy words.
- Find statistics (such as dates and numbers) within a text.

Summarise

- Put a set of events in the order that they happen in the text.
- Write a short summary about what has happened in the text.
- Write a summary about a character and what we know about them.
- Tick the events that happen in the story.