

SUCCESS STORIES

Rivermead Primary School Berkshire



MASTER READERS

excellence after phonics

Pupils on roll	420
Ofsted date	October 2018 (short inspection)
Ofsted rating	Good
Trust name	Bellevue Place Education Trust

Improving Outcomes

In 2018, we started our reading journey by adopting a phonics programme. This ensured that all our children were given the best possible start to learn to read. Having reaped the rewards of this within the first year, we were keen to find something that provided the same success and opportunities after phonics. We, like all schools, want all our children to excel within reading.

When the 2018 reading SATs results were released to us, we saw this was an area in which we needed to improve. The results were not reflective of our enthusiasm nor efforts in teaching children reading in KS2. From this we began exploring ways we could address this issue effectively. We knew **the core values we wanted: systematic, consistent teaching, discussion focused and a varied diet of class texts**. After trialling a few schemes and varied resources, we felt that we still did not have the consistency we were striving for - until we were introduced to Master Readers.

An Effective approach

From the first excellent training session, we knew that this aligned with what we wanted for our children. **A mastery approach to reading where all children have the potential and opportunity to reach the National Curriculum expectations**. The scheme ensured that there was high quality teaching with a focus on the development of vocabulary; discussion-based lessons where children share ideas and understanding; opportunities for the children to be read to and with each other; breaking down barriers to accessing the texts; and opportunities to gain the skills to show their understanding through answering questions both verbally and written.

The Master Readers approach enabled us to be inclusive, aspirational and ensured support and challenge for all children. Allowing them achieve in their reading.

Expert teachers having an impact

Each teacher was able to observe lessons first-hand from a school that had already become well-established in their teaching approach. This enabled our teachers to see instantly see the impact of this teaching process had on the children: their ability to answer eloquently with evidence and develop their thinking and understanding by being prompted by the resources provided in the programme. It was clear what a huge impact this could have on the children in their learning and development of reading skills.

Improved engagement right from the start

Once we began implementing this into our school, we knew we wanted to see a higher rate of engagement within our lessons, the development of understanding and ideas through discussion, and for this to then be shown in writing in the children's books. Within weeks this was evident within all classrooms. The discussion between the children during the Book Club lessons was something that we hadn't seen before within our school; **those who were once viewed as our lower achievers were now flourishing within the lessons based upon the scaffolds and structure provided**.



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Ongoing Support

After our first term of teaching through Master Readers, we were able to participate in a **development day**. This was a **brilliant opportunity for us to discuss and explore our current successes and our next steps for improvement**. Staff were confident going into this day and this was evident in the level of teaching we were able to see during our learning walk. The children were enjoying the lessons based upon a whole class text and were engaged in high quality discussions.

Impacting the whole curriculum

The Master Readers approach has allowed us to improve our reading spine, ensuring that the diet we are providing is broad, balanced and rich in variety. It has also made us look beyond our reading curriculum to ensure that we are enhancing our whole school curriculum including looking further into our handwriting, links to our writing curriculum and reading in the wider curriculum too. The principles of Master Readers does not remain in only that lesson - it is implemented further afield across the curriculum too.

Challenging and supporting readers

The further training which looks at how to support our bottom 20% and assess our pupils has been invaluable. We are enjoying working more closely with other partner schools who implement Master Readers to support and develop our assessment and support of all children.

Now having almost completed our first year of the Master Readers approach we can see the impact this has had on our children. Through this approach we hold the highest expectations of our teaching ensuring that all children are leaving our school with the ability to read and comprehend. Through the systematic and consistent approach from EYFS through to Year 6, we are already seeing the impact; we are excited to see how this supports our children throughout their whole learning journey with us in Primary School. We are more than happy to share our experience with others, or have teachers come observe Master Readers in action.



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