

The Big Read

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Who was targeted?	The whole school, but through this initiative we particularly wanted to expose EAL children to book language, and give children who are not read to at home this important experience.
Outline of project:	
<p>Across the school the last 15 minutes of the school day are dedicated to 'The Big Read'. Children are read a range of books including picture books, chapter stories and non-fiction texts. The focus <i>is</i> children hearing books read to them but there is some flexibility in how it is used so that it can support classroom learning. For example: it may be used to check comprehension; lead into a lesson the following day; consolidate the day's learning; give children the opportunity to read aloud. Through listening to an adult read the children gain a model of what good reading sounds like.</p>	
Overview of the timelines, additional resources etc.	
<p>The Big Read was introduced to teachers at the end of the 2015/16 academic year and launched in September 2016.</p> <p>During our launch year, school and teacher resources were significantly supplemented by a CLS package. This enabled us to have lots of topic based stories and information texts <i>and</i> widened our knowledge of available texts through 'Book Talking' sessions.</p> <p>On World Book Day we had a Big, Big Read: classes joined together, swapped teachers or had a guest reader.</p>	
Impact	
<p>Please note that we are still assessing the impact of this initiative, but we have observed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children are learning to enjoy books – it is motivating them in their own reading. • Children are exposed to language beyond their reading capability. • Parents are interested and children are talking to them about books. 	
Lessons learnt – advice for other schools	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be flexible with timing – on some days and in some year groups The Big Read works better at an earlier time. • We are learning how to optimise our use of CLS resources, with a number of year groups now visiting the showroom and selecting their own resources. • We became aware that some authors were very popular. We are working at promoting: a wider range of authors; stories from other cultures; non-fiction books; and picture books for the older children and chapter books for the younger children. 	
Estimate of costs	Our CLS package was £5500 This was the only cost. Please note that we are a four form entry school.