

READING PROGRESSION (EYFS → YEAR 6)

Aston Rowant's Reading Journey: Fluency • Understanding • Love of Reading

EYFS – Foundations of Reading

Children learn to:

Phonological Awareness

- Hear, identify and generate rhymes
- Distinguish environmental, instrumental and body sounds
- Identify initial sounds
- Blend and segment orally

Early Decoding

- Recognise taught grapheme–phoneme correspondences (GPCs)
- Blend VC/CVC words
- Read simple captions and sentences

Comprehension & Talk

- Retell familiar stories using story language
- Join in with predictable phrases
- Make simple predictions
- Discuss characters, settings, events

Reading for Pleasure

- Engage with daily story time
- Explore class reading areas
- Respond with excitement to books and pictures

World Book Day impact:

"I didn't know you could get books about cooking / space / art... now I want to read them all!"

YEAR 1 – Securing Early Reading

Children learn to:

Decoding & Fluency

- Secure Phase 5 phonics (Rocket Phonics aligned)
- Read accurately using blending
- Re-read books for fluency
- Begin reading with expression

Comprehension

- Answer literal retrieval questions
- Make simple inferences using pictures
- Predict endings and next events

Vocabulary

- Learn new words from stories
- Use vocabulary from reading in speech

Reading for Pleasure

- Engage in book talk
- Choose decodable and high-interest picture books

Pupil voice: *"Books can take you anywhere!"* (WBD 2026)

YEAR 2 – Developing Independence

Children learn to:

Fluency

- Read most words on sight
- Increase stamina for longer books
- Use phrasing and intonation

Comprehension

- Retrieve key information
- Make simple inferences from text
- Sequence events
- Discuss character motives
- Recognise themes (friendship, bravery)

Vocabulary

- Clarify unknown words
- Begin to discuss "author choice"

Reading for Pleasure

- Participate in book swaps: *"I found a book I'm going to read tonight!"*

LKS2 (Years 3 & 4) – Deepening Understanding

Children learn to:

Fluency

- Read with growing independence and confidence
- Adjust expression to suit genre

Comprehension

- Use evidence to support simple inferences
- Summarise main ideas
- Discuss themes and messages
- Compare characters and viewpoints
- Understand how paragraphs organise ideas

Vocabulary

- Use dictionaries effectively
- Explore figurative language
- Recognise “shades of meaning”

Reading for Pleasure

- Discover authors and series
- Recommend books to others
- Read across a broader range of genres

World Book Day LKS2 insight:

“I made a puzzle for Year 1 — and they solved it!” (leadership through literacy)

UKS2 (Years 5 & 6) – Mastery and Critical Reading

Children learn to:

Fluency

- Read confidently, fluently and with sophisticated expression

Comprehension

- Infer deeply using subtle clues
- Identify themes: justice, identity, resilience
- Analyse author techniques (flashback, dual narrative, foreshadowing)
- Evaluate effectiveness of language choices
- Compare texts across cultures and time periods
- Read critically, forming and justifying opinions

Vocabulary

- Understand etymology & morphology
- Use academic/subject-specific language confidently

Reading for Pleasure

- Recognise themselves as independent, reflective readers
- Select challenging texts
- Engage in whole-school events (Masked Reader, poetry recitals)
“I changed my mind five times!” - excitement & involvement (WBD 2025)

By the End of Year 6

Children at Aston Rowant:

- Read fluently and confidently
- Understand and enjoy a wide range of texts
- Make thoughtful inferences and analysis
- Talk about books with sophistication
- Have strong reading identities
- Love reading