



Reading Cultural Capital

“As part of making the judgement about the quality of education, inspectors will consider the extent to which schools are equipping pupils with the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life. Our understanding of ‘*knowledge and cultural capital*’ is derived from the following wording in the national curriculum: ‘It is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and *achievement*.’”

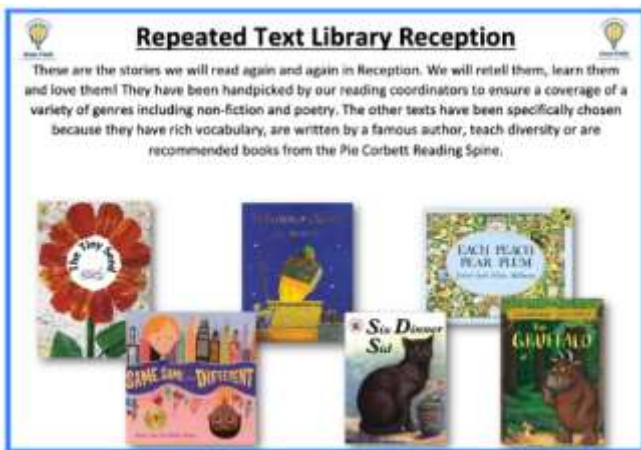
(Ofsted School Inspection Handbook, Nov 2019)

Cultural Capital is the accumulation of knowledge, behaviours and skills that a student can draw upon and which demonstrates their cultural awareness, knowledge and competence. It is one of the key ingredients a student will need to be successful at secondary school, in further education and eventually their career and the world of work.

At Dean Field, we take every opportunity possible to enhance the cultural capital of our learners and equip them with the knowledge and experiences needed for society. One way in which we promote cultural capital via reading is by providing and exposing our children to a range of texts, from different genres, that have been written by authors from a wide range of backgrounds. We spend time looking and learning about authors of the books we read in English lessons. Here are other things we have done, as a school, to promote cultural capital through reading.

Repeated Text Library

All year groups, from Nursery to Year 6, have a repeated text library in their class. It is a selection of books that have been hand picked by the reading coordinators to ensure a coverage of a variety of genres including non-fiction and poetry. The other texts have been specifically chosen because they have rich vocabulary, are written by famous authors, teach diversity or are recommended books from the Pie Corbett Reading Spine. All teachers read and re-read these texts to children throughout the year so that at the end of the school year, pupils have a breadth of knowledge and understanding about famous authors and literature. In the future, they can then build on this and eventually have the ability to engage with high culture literature.



Vocabulary Wall - 'Word of the Week'

All year groups have a vocabulary wall where new 'tier 2' words are displayed each week. Research has shown us (Beck, 2002) that there is a rise in the word gap in young children. Naturally, children develop tier 1 vocabulary easily and when taught various subjects they absorb tier 3 words well. However, tier 2 words are less common in spoken language therefore children don't have a great understanding when it comes to reading them in different texts which slows down their reading pace. To close this gap and to add to the cultural capital of our pupils, we are introduced a tier 2 word per week in each class. For each new word taught, teachers: explicitly teach the word, add and introduce it to the word wall, refer to the word throughout the week and praise children for using the word.





The Weekly Newspaper

Each week, in our school library, pupils have access to a weekly newspaper. The newspaper gives them the opportunity to read about current, child friendly world affairs allowing them to expand their understanding of the world and add to their cultural capital.



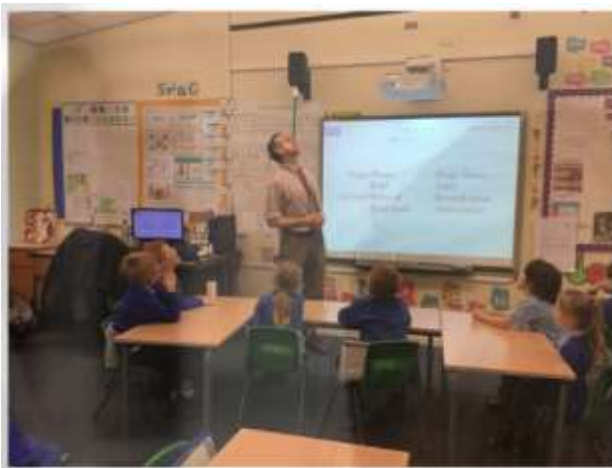
Non-Fiction November

In November, we celebrated non-fiction November! We spent the month encouraging, promoting and celebrating non-fiction reading. We had an in-class, friendly reading competition to find our non-fiction reading champions. Teachers also shared weekly non-fiction texts on Seesaw for pupils to enjoy at home with their parents.



Little People, BIG DREAMS!

In our library, we have a very special collection of 'Little People, BIG DREAMS,' books that our pupils can read for pleasure to enhance their understanding of inspirational figures. Not only does this support their cultural capital in reading, but could also support their learning in science and history.



Poet Visits

Every half term, we have a specialist poetry teacher that visits Dean Field to work with pupils on poetry linked to their half termly phonics. He works closely with children to develop their understanding of poetry and teaches them how to write a certain style of poem. This not only exposes our pupils to different types of poetry, but gives them the opportunity to experience the success of writing their own.

World Book Day

Every year at Dean Field, we celebrate World Book Day. We give the children the opportunity to dress up as their favourite characters and take part in various activities linked to reading throughout the day. Not only does this promote reading for pleasure, but it also gives the children the opportunity read texts they wouldn't usually read during their English/Reading lessons. Some children also got the chance to go to WH Smiths on the school mini bus and spend their World Book Day book token.



