

## Reading at Icení Hockwold

**“Books are a uniquely portable magic.”** (Stephen King)

Being able to read is one of the most vital skills we can help our children master and one of the most joyful. Here at Icení Hockwold we are committed to providing our pupils with the best start to reading possible.

We begin with our Acorns who learn their phonics through an amazing and transformative teaching programme called Little Wandle. In just a few short weeks, children’s ability to blend whole words together begins and then their love of reading can grow from there. From Reception age, our pupils are not only sharing books with adults but they are also taking whole books home to read to their parents/carers themselves. What a wonderful sense of early reading achievement!

Once children are reading more fluently, our home-grown bespoke reading pathways begin: children start on the BEAR Project (Be Excited About Reading) and earn themselves actual Icení Hockwold bears to take home and name – the naming is a very special part of the process. Children begin on the Readasaurus pathway – The books in the “Readasaurus” tier of the BEAR project are carefully selected as a good starting point for early readers who are becoming increasingly independent and therefore needing a further challenge, engaging in a wider selection of stories and non-fiction books. The children work through each pathway and become Masters and Associates before they leave us. We have children in Key Stage 2 reading classics like Anne of Green Gables, The Hobbit and Jane Austen novels as well as working towards their fourth bear. Amazing!

The ethos of loving to read is very much alive here at our Academy and here are some more ways that we show our children every day how much the power of being able to read is valued:

- STAR – Stay Together and Read from 8.30 – 8.45am every morning for parents/carers and their children
- Reading Star badges are handed out weekly in Celebration Assemblies
- Each class has a reading raffle where, for a certain number of reads per week, children are entered into a raffle for a prize
- Our Staff Love of Reading display in the corridor where, each week, a different member of staff displays their favourite reading book under twinkly lights
- Every single lesson – whether it is an English lesson or not - has reading in it...even PE and Music!
- In our younger-aged classrooms you will find a display of a favourite author’s books
- For World Book Day this year, children came as a character from their favourite author and produced a piece of work to get them really pinpointing their favourite books and be able to talk about them

- We have a wonderful volunteer called Lynne who comes in weekly and reads with the children to increase their reading fluency and comprehension at speed as well as talk to them at length about their BEAR Books.

Take a look at our social media on Twitter and Facebook: Icení Hockwold and Icení Academy Hockwold respectively. There you will see how much we value reading at our Academy.