

Reading  
Information  
Evening

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September

# **The Curriculum**

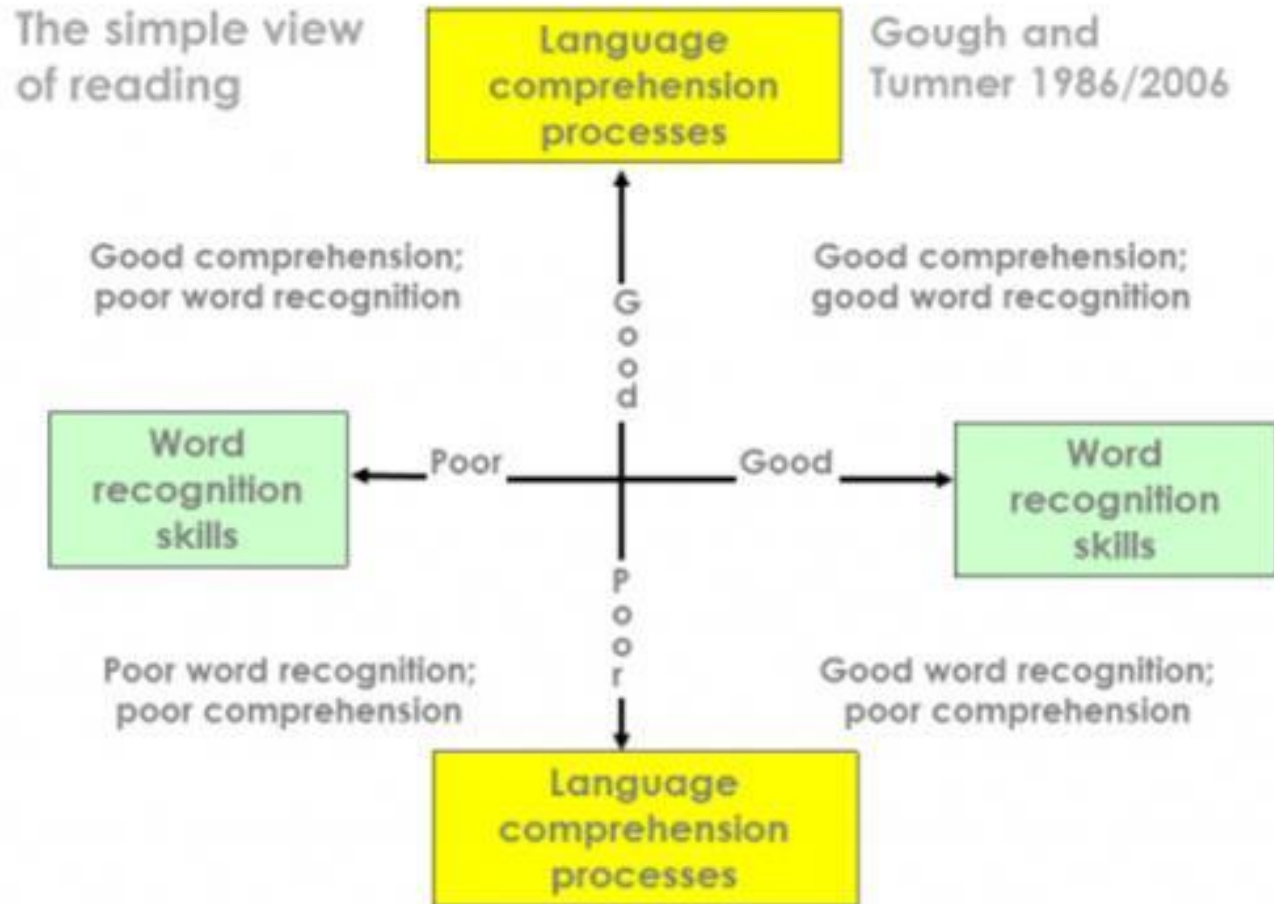
All the skills of language are essential to participating fully as a member of society; pupils, therefore, who do not learn to speak, read and write fluently and confidently are effectively disenfranchised.

**The National Curriculum, English  
Purpose of Study**

# *Aims of the English Curriculum*

- *read easily, fluently and with good understanding*
- *develop the habit of reading widely and often, for both pleasure and information*
- *acquire a wide vocabulary, an understanding of grammar and knowledge of linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language*
- *appreciate our rich and varied literary heritage*

# What is a good reader?



# The Importance of Fluency

Fluency is smooth reading that enables understanding at the point of reading

The factors that enable fluency:

- Automaticity (rapid word reading without conscious decoding)
- Accuracy (often measured as correct words per minute)
- Prosody (expressive, phrased reading)

# Phonics

- Recently we have begun to use Twinkl Phonics as our scheme to deliver daily phonics lessons in all classes in school.
- Children are assessed during the lessons to ensure they are showing understanding and applying the new sounds.
- The Phonics Screening Check happens in Year 1 in June. Children are asked to read 20 real words and 20 nonsense words using sounds they have learned.
- Children who do not achieve the pass mark will have phonics intervention sessions and retake the test in Year 2.

# Phonics At Home

- A link to the parent information sheets on our website will be in the Friday email. This will explain the sounds your child has been working on that week, and may contain activities to work on at home.
- A phonically decodable paper book (yours to keep!) will be sent home on Friday as well, containing sounds your child has been learning. Your child can read this to you and this can be one of the reading sessions you record in your child's reading record.
- Your child will also bring home a book from the current level (phase) in phonics they are working on. This will be changed regularly.
- We are currently exploring ways to enable families to have access to online phonically decodable books, which will mean using a PIN to access the Twinkl website. More information on this will be sent home very soon.

# Book Bands

- Book bands are used to organise books into graded levels. This system is widely used, and the books are carefully graded according to difficulty.
- Aspects of the book considered when grading include phonic content, sentence structure, text length, and tricky word content.
- Book band books are not usually phonically decodable, so may contain words and phonemes your child has not yet encountered in school.



# Book band colours in order

Lilac
Pink
Red
Yellow
Blue
Green
Orange
Turquoise
Purple
Gold
White
Lime
Black

# Your child's reading level

- Your child will bring home a book to read that is the colour level **below** the colour of their assessment level. This will be the level they can read to you with more confidence and fluency.
- The book band colour is a guide for home and school. Children may read at the same book band level for a while – we're not trying to get to Lime as quickly as we can! Good comprehension of the text, pace of reading, fluency, awareness of punctuation, good use of expression and confidence are very important.

# How to help your child with reading at home

- Read as often as you can – every day if possible.
- Try and make the reading session calm, quiet and relaxed.
- Write in the reading record book every time your child reads to you, noting difficulties and successes.
- Ask questions about the text, discuss new unfamiliar words, and talk about what is happening, what the characters are doing, etc relating to your child's own experiences.
- Even higher attaining readers need to read aloud as often as possible, in order to continue to develop specific reading skills, and expand their vocabulary.

# A book at bedtime...

- 'It felt so warm, so spirit-rising' – 11 yr old boy
- 'The joy of a bedtime story is the key to developing a love of reading in children...They're being taught to read before anyone has shared with them the pleasure of reading – so what motivation have they got to learn?' – Frank Cottrell Boyce, Carnegie medal winner
- 'TV in the bedroom is the killer of bedtime stories' – Michael Rosen, children's author