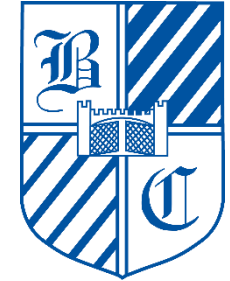


Reading at Butlers Court



Our Butlers Court family nurtures kind, resilient, ambitious and curious children. Our caring environment supports well-being and self-belief, encouraging everyone to flourish. Through a wide range of experiences and opportunities, every child has the chance to shine, developing a love of learning and prepared for the ever-changing world and a future of possibilities.

Curriculum Intent

We offer all children a broad and exciting curriculum that inspires creativity, builds strong subject knowledge, and makes learning enjoyable and meaningful.

We nurture curiosity and develop essential skills such as problem-solving, communication, and independent thinking through engaging and memorable experiences.

We value every child's voice, encouraging them to express their opinions and take an active role in school life.

Our Values

Resilience

Honesty

Responsibility

Respect

Tolerance

Honesty

Curriculum Intent – We aim to ...

At Butlers Court School, reading is at the heart of everything we do. We are passionate about nurturing a love of reading in every child, helping them to become confident, fluent readers who find joy and meaning in the written word. We believe that reading opens doors – to learning, imagination, empathy, and future success – and we are committed to making every child's reading journey exciting and enriching.

From the very beginning, children are taught to read through a consistent and systematic phonics programme, laying strong foundations for fluency and understanding. As they grow, they are immersed in a rich variety of high-quality texts – from timeless classics to modern, diverse literature – chosen to inspire curiosity and broaden horizons.

Reading for pleasure is central to our ethos. We celebrate books and stories daily, with dedicated story time, inviting book corners, reading events, and a vibrant school library. Our staff are enthusiastic reading role models who share their love of books with children and families alike. We believe every child deserves to experience the magic of reading. Through our inclusive, inspiring approach, we aim to develop readers who not only achieve academically, but carry their love of reading with them for life.

Curriculum Implementation – How we achieve this...

Reading at Butlers Court School

At Butlers Court School, we are passionate about creating confident, fluent readers who develop a deep and lasting love of reading. We know that reading opens doors to learning, curiosity, and lifelong opportunity — and we place it at the heart of everything we do.

Early Reading and Phonics

Reading begins with the systematic teaching of phonics using Read Write Inc. (RWI) in Reception and Key Stage 1. This structured, consistent approach ensures all children build secure decoding skills and early comprehension. Progress is regularly assessed, and teaching is responsive to individual needs. For children in Key Stage 2 who require further support, we continue to offer RWI alongside Fresh Start Phonics in upper KS2 to build confidence and fluency.

Reading Progression and Comprehension

As children grow into independent readers, we follow The Literacy Tree — a high-quality, text-based approach grounded in current best practice. Carefully chosen texts reflect a wide range of voices, themes, and cultures, encouraging deep thinking and fostering empathy. From Year 2 upwards, guided reading is delivered through the Literary Leaves programme. This enhances comprehension through sequenced activities that guide children through complete texts, helping them become critical, reflective readers. Every child keeps a Reading Response Book to capture their ideas, questions and reflections.

The breadth of books covered through The Literacy Tree includes classics, contemporary fiction, picture books, poetry, and culturally rich texts offering powerful stories that develop language, empathy, and an appreciation of diverse perspectives.

Reading for Pleasure

Reading for pleasure is woven into the fabric of our school. We have inviting book corners in every class; a well-stocked library with weekly library visits; Reading Ambassadors; reading buddies across year groups; monthly book swaps; and regular author visits. Children enjoy daily DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) sessions, and parents are warmly invited to join in with 'Stay and Read' mornings.

A Culture of Reading

At Butlers Court, reading is not just a subject — it is a culture. Children are carefully monitored to ensure they are reading at the expected level, and appropriate interventions are swiftly put in place when needed. Reading is celebrated and shared across the school, supported by a team-wide commitment to building fluency, independence and joy. Through this rich and supportive environment, every child is empowered to see themselves as a reader — and a lifelong learner.

A Systematic Approach

At Butlers Court, we use the Read Write Inc. (RWI) programme to deliver a structured and consistent approach to phonics from Reception to Year 2, ensuring all children develop strong reading and writing foundations. Daily sessions focus on reading, writing, spelling, and oral rehearsal. Pupils who need extra support receive targeted phonics interventions, which continue into Key Stage 2, including Fresh Start Phonics in upper KS2 to build fluency and confidence.

Reading at Home

At Butlers Court School, we know that regular reading at home plays a vital role in helping children become confident, fluent readers. Every pupil has a reading record, where both school and home reading can be logged. We encourage children to read daily with an adult, and ask that parents or carers sign the reading record to celebrate this shared time. To support families further, all children are given reading bookmarks with helpful questions and prompts. These are designed to spark conversation, build comprehension, and help parents check their child's understanding in a simple, supportive way.

Regular reading practice- Learning to read and support

At Butlers Court School, we prioritise regular reading practice as a vital part of every child's learning journey. In EYFS and Key Stage 1, pupils read every day as part of their phonics lessons, giving them daily opportunities to build decoding skills, fluency, and confidence. For pupils in Key Stage 2 who have been identified as needing additional support, targeted phonics interventions continue to ensure no child is left behind.

To help children transition smoothly to becoming independent, fluent readers, Years 2 to 6 have access to Reading Bridging Boxes — carefully selected short chapter books designed to build stamina and confidence for those not yet ready for 'free reader' texts. Alongside this, all Key Stage 2 pupils take part in whole class guided reading sessions based on The Literacy Tree's Literary Leaves, which encourage deep thinking, rich discussion, and comprehension. Support is thoughtfully directed to identified pupils within each session, ensuring every child is supported and challenged appropriately.

Every classroom features a well-stocked library with age-appropriate books and access to a year group reading list, helping to foster a love of reading. This supportive and inclusive approach allows every child to see themselves as a reader, enjoy books for both pleasure and purpose, and become confident, thoughtful learners for life.

Reading for Meaning – Reading to Learn

At Butlers Court School, we believe that reading is not just about decoding words — it's about understanding, thinking, and making meaning. From the very beginning of their reading journey, pupils are supported to become thoughtful, reflective readers who can read to learn as well as read for pleasure. In EYFS and Key Stage 1, our daily Read Write Inc. Phonics lessons follow a clear and consistent structure. As part of this, children read carefully matched texts that allow them to practise decoding while also developing comprehension and oral fluency. As pupils move into Key Stage 2, we build on this strong foundation through whole class guided reading lessons using The Literacy Tree's Literary Leaves. These lessons are carefully planned to promote deeper reading and critical thinking. Pupils are guided through high-quality, complete texts that expose them to rich vocabulary, diverse perspectives, and challenging themes. Lessons include regular, structured opportunities to answer both open and closed questions, helping children explore inference, authorial intent and personal response. Higher-attaining readers are challenged through more complex questioning and extended discussion.

This layered approach — from learning to read, to reading to learn — ensures children develop strong comprehension, emotional insight, and the ability to think critically about texts. It reflects our commitment to nurturing readers who understand, connect with, and question what they read — and carry those skills beyond the classroom.

Reading for Pleasure – Reading to Enjoy

At Butlers Court School, we are committed to nurturing a lifelong love of reading in every child. Central to this is ensuring all pupils have access to high-quality, diverse literature that reflects the world around them and broadens their understanding of different people, cultures, and experiences. Our well-stocked school library is a valued resource, filled with engaging texts for all ages and reading abilities. Our experienced and passionate librarian plays a vital role in helping children discover books they love, promoting reading both in school and across the wider community. She is always on hand to recommend new titles and works tirelessly to keep our reading offer fresh, inclusive, and exciting.

From the very start, we encourage regular reading at home. In EYFS and Key Stage 1, pupils take home three carefully selected books in their book bags each week: their current phonics book matched to their stage; a decodable 'book bag' book; and a reading-for-pleasure book. In Key Stage 2, as children become fluent, confident readers, they are supported to make independent reading choices from classroom collections, the school library, or books from home. At every stage, staff are available to guide reading choices, answer questions, and help children grow as readers. Reading for pleasure is embedded into our school culture through weekly DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) time, where the whole school pauses to enjoy reading together. Families are welcomed into school for 'Stay and Read' sessions, creating joyful opportunities to share stories and reading routines. Our Reading Ambassadors promote reading across the school: recommending books; supporting younger pupils; and helping lead events such as book swaps, author celebrations, and World Book Day.

Our classrooms are reading-rich environments, with inviting book corners, class reading displays, and access to age-appropriate texts that inspire curiosity and imagination. In line with the Reading Framework, our approach recognises that reading for pleasure is not just beneficial — it is essential. It supports language development, empathy, wellbeing, and academic success. Most importantly, it allows children to experience the joy, comfort, and wonder that only reading can bring.

Assessment

Staff continually monitor and assess pupils' reading throughout each lesson and support/scaffold them where needed. This may be through immediate feedback or an intervention.

Summative assessments take place through termly PIRA papers that focus on key comprehension skills. This data is used to identify gaps in learning that can then be addressed, either as a whole class or through individual interventions. Internal assessments take place at the end of Key Stage 1 and at the end of Key Stage 2, children's reading is assessed through the SATs.

Teachers in EYFS and Key Stage 1 also conduct half-termly phonics assessments to see if children are ready to progress to the next phonics level; these continue until children have completed the Read Write Inc. phonics scheme and are ready to join a Reading Response group.

Curriculum Impact

Pupils enjoy reading and make progress regardless of their starting point. Staff are confident about teaching reading using a range of strategies.

Impact is monitored by regular learning walks and book looks, with feedback given to teachers to ensure a consistent approach to planning, teaching, marking and assessment.

Our end of Key Stage assessment results in Reading are consistently above County and National averages.

KS2 SATs	2023	2024	2025
Achieving the Expected Standard in Reading	92%	81%	88%