

High Quality Texts at Northwick Park

‘Great books build the imagination...A child who is read to will have an inner kingdom of unicorns, talking spiders and a knife that cuts into other worlds. The mind is like a ‘tardis’; it may seem small but inside there are many mansions. Each great book develops the imagination and equips the reader with language.’ Pie Corbett

We believe that children should hear quality texts read to them throughout their school life; an enjoyment of books is a life skill and a vehicle through which many skills can be taught.

To this end, we developed a ‘spine’ of quality story books and poems that children will hear read to them throughout their time at Northwick Park Trust. Each book has been selected for interest, vocabulary development, pleasure and themes that may benefit our children. Pupils and staff were involved in choosing the books. Books chosen represent a range of diverse authors and characters to reflect our pupils’ experiences both within and beyond their own communities.

Nursery, Reception and KS 1

Children in Nursery, Reception and KS 1 have a special box of the same books in each room. These are called the ‘Special Smiley’ books. These books become familiar to the children on their journey through the start of their school careers and act as a secure ‘bridge’ between one year group and another. Teachers read these texts frequently to the children and children may choose to read them themselves (initially learning by repetition). These books were chosen by staff and children and we aim for these books to provide fond memories in years to come.

Our ‘Special Smiley’ books are:



- Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andeae
- Willy the Wimp by Anthony Browne
- Handa's Surprise by Eileen Brown
- Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
- The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson
- Aliens Love Underpants by Clare Freedman
- Not Now Bernard by David McKee
- Peace at Last by Jill Murphy
- Whatever Next by Jill Murphy
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen
- Where the Wild Things are by Maurice Sendak

They are easily recognised in classrooms by their smiley stickers and special boxes.