

Putting words at the heart of learning at Parsons Green Prep

By Lydia Cozens and Alex Jarrett

Reading and spelling sit at the heart of the academic vision at **Parsons Green Prep**, aligned with the Department of Education's National Year of Reading.

This small but highly ambitious school where every child is known and supported, witnesses daily the way in which confidence in these core skills unlocks learning across the curriculum. By strengthening the school's approach, pupils are provided with the strongest possible foundation for future success, both in school and beyond.

Their journey begins in the classroom with daily, well structured phonics and reading. These are intentionally personalised and interactive; children learn to decode words securely, explore different texts and build fluency, allowing them to read with expression and enjoyment.

As pupils move up the school they encounter rich class texts, focused guided reading groups and dedicated independent reading time. This steady progression helps them recognise their own growth and approach new challenges with confidence.

To deepen engagement further, pupils are also encouraged to use an online reading platform. This has widened access to books, increased reading practice and boosted motivation, improving fluency and an eagerness to read for pleasure. As mentioned in the school's recent ISI report, children 'enjoy reading books to their teachers and



answer questions about the characters they read about.'

Spelling teaching has also been strengthened. Children learn spelling patterns and rules in a clear, systematic way before applying them directly in their writing. This makes their learning feel purposeful, encouraging them to experiment with new vocabulary, knowing

that they have the tools to support them.

The impact is visible every day at Parsons Green Prep: children choosing books independently, tackling ambitious words and taking ownership of their spelling. By placing reading and spelling centre stage, the school is pupils grow into confident, articulate learners who embrace new ideas with enthusiasm.

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More information at www.parsonsgreenprep.co.uk or call 020 7610 8085.