

PARENTS READING MEETING

- How we teach reading at Stanstead.
- How we develop a love of reading.
- How you can support your child at home.



Reading Parents Meeting



Moving from Phonics to Comprehension (KS2)

- In the early years, children focus on **phonics** – learning to read words.
- In KS2, the focus shifts to **reading comprehension** – understanding and enjoying what they read.
- We don't just want children to read a story... we want them to see that **books are magical!**
- Strong comprehension builds confidence, curiosity, and a **lifelong love of reading.**
- Your child will still be supported with phonics in KS2 if they need it, so don't worry!

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How We Teach Reading



- **Fluency practise** – children read the text many times over the week.
- **Key vocabulary first** – children meet words before reading.
- **Focus skill each week** – retrieval, inference, prediction, summarising, comparison, relationship, word meaning, word choice.
- **Apply skills together** – exploring whole texts.
- **Teaching approach** – modelling, discussion, independent practice.
- **Varied texts** – stories, poetry, non-fiction, classic & modern.

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How can you help?



- **Read the text** with your child
- **Discuss the meaning** of any **new words**
- **Ask them questions** about what they have read to see what they understand?

Stone Circles, by Dawn Finch

This text provides information about stone circles, which are very old monuments put up thousands of years ago. Stonehenge is a world-famous stone circle in the south of England.

What are stone circles?

A stone circle is a monument made up of large stones. The stones are arranged so that they are standing in a circle. We call these stones megaliths. The oldest stone circles were put up in a period of history known as the Neolithic period.

Neolithic means 'New Stone Age', which means that it was the end of the Stone Age. The Neolithic period in Britain lasted from around 4000 BC to around 2200 BC. This was followed by the Bronze Age. Bronze Age people continued to use the circles and add to them.

It is thought that there are over 1300 stone circles in the United Kingdom. Most of these stone circles are over 5000 years old and were built by Neolithic farmers. Today, the stone circles are usually in empty landscapes where they can be seen from a long way off. When they were built, however, the stone circles were probably in the middle of busy settlements, where many people lived and farmed.

Why were stone circles built?

There are lots of different ideas about why stone circles were built. Because we do not have any written information from the Neolithic period, archaeologists have to get information in other ways. They use any evidence they can find at the sites to come up with theories about the stone circles and why they were built. These theories change as archaeologists find out more about the sites as they excavate.

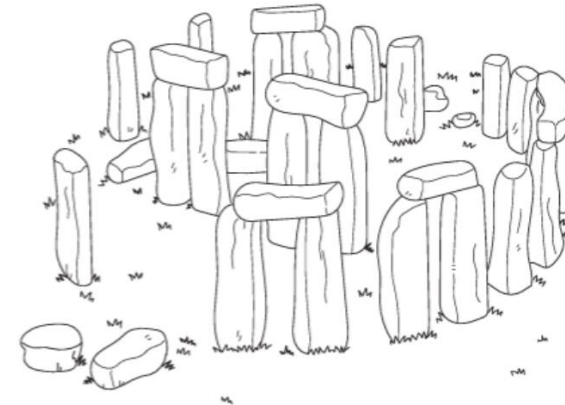
It would have taken a very long time to build the stone circles. Archaeologists believe that stone circles were first built to mark the boundaries, or edges, of land. They may have been placed there to show how important the people in that area were. Bones and burials are often found at stone circles. This suggests that they may have been used as special places to bury ancestors. Archaeologists also believe that the Neolithic people must have planned the building work carefully.

Stonehenge

Stonehenge is one of the most famous prehistoric monuments in the world. It stands on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, England. It is in the middle of a landscape full of burial mounds and other Neolithic sites.

People began to build Stonehenge in around 2800 BC, but it took many hundreds of years to finish. It began with a ditch, or henge, and then a single ring of small stones. After that, Neolithic people put up a ring of very large stones and hundreds of years later another two rings of stones. The last stage of building was the massive ring of stones that people recognize it for today. The giant stones can be seen from kilometres away.

Hundreds of people would have worked together to build Stonehenge. The bluestones in the inner ring were brought from quarries over 300 kilometres (186 miles) away. There are 29 bluestones that can be seen today, but there may have been up to 80 at one time. The bluestones weigh up to 4000 kilograms each. They may have been pulled on sledges with wooden rollers, or floated up rivers on rafts.



Stonehenge stands on Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire, England.

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How we teach reading (Daily Quiet Reading)



- **15 minutes every afternoon** before home time.
- **Calm end to the day** – helps children settle.
- **Time to practise** – builds stamina and fluency.
- **Enjoyment** – encourages a positive reading habit.
- **Independence** – children choose and manage their own reading.

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Reading for pleasure



- **Weekly library session** – dedicated time to enjoy books.
- **Book sharing** – children explore and swap books with friends.
- **Book talk** – discussing stories, authors, and favourite reads.
- **Recommendations** – encouraging peer-to-peer inspiration.
- **Love of reading** – building positive lifelong habits.

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Books to Expect at Home



- **Reading for Pleasure book** – chosen by your child, swapped weekly in the library.
- **Book-banded book** – carefully matched to their reading level for practice.
- **Two different purposes** – one for enjoyment, one for developing skills.



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Reading at home

- **Little and often** – just 10 minutes a day makes a big difference.
- **Share together** – listen to your child read or enjoy a story aloud.
- **Talk about books** – ask questions, predict endings, share opinions.
- **Be a role model** – let children see you enjoying reading too
- **Celebrate effort** – praise progress, not just perfection.
- **Reluctant readers** - mix it up, spend time reading the book banded book, and their reading for pleasure book.

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Useful information



- **Free e-books** for home reading: <http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/Reading/>
- Comprehension **skills handout**.
- Please ensure your child brings their **reading book and diary** into school **every day**.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

