

Ivy Lane School Library, as you are all about to see, is a really special place.

We have poured our time, energy, resources and a lot of love into making it a really special place because at our school we wholeheartedly believe in the power of reading for pleasure and remain determined that it should feature strongly in every Ivy Lane pupil's school experience.

The desire to read has to be encouraged before the skill can be effectively taught and this key fact was at the front of our minds when we were planning and designing our library. What has deliberately evolved is an exciting, enticing and very different space from anywhere else in our school.

We wanted to reflect the journey that reading can take you on -not only the journey of learning to read and gaining the skills to be able to read more and more widely, but also the journey that each encounter with a book can take you on as it offers up new ideas, new places, new characters and new feelings.

We have tried to reflect this physically in the different reading areas that have been created. Through this door is an underwater world, a nature area with a real tree, a ruined castle and a space station on a mission somewhere in the universe - not to mention the cool chill out zone complete with the sofas that were specifically requested by Year 6.

There's enough space for children to be able to roam and visit different areas (which of course are packed with books) but we have also kept a central space where a whole class can gather for a shared Storytime. There are parts of the library that will stay the same and features that will change to keep the experience of visiting it fresh and interesting.

Every child will be able to visit the library every week with their class in a regular timetabled slot. Every child can borrow a book to take home every week. Additional library time can be booked by class teachers who wish to use this space to spark imaginations, aid creativity or go on a fact finding mission with their class. And our library will also be available for Storytime sessions for very young children who attend our local nurseries.

As a school we are totally committed to delivering a high quality curriculum and giving every one of our pupils the very best start to their education. But we think of the curriculum as being more than that which is directed by the

government. So, where reading is concerned, yes, we absolutely do deliver a high quality phonics programme and plan with careful thought and detail to meet the demands of the English curriculum in terms of comprehension, grammar, spelling and writing. But you would be mistaken in thinking that the driving force behind the creation of our library was to service the excessive demands of the primary English curriculum, because it is not about that at all.

Our library is about reading for pleasure. It is about fun, relaxing, sharing, laughing, imagining, thinking and choosing. And unashamedly, our expectation of a child when they visit our library is that they should enjoy the experience (and want to repeat it)!

To quote someone more qualified than me, former children's laureate Michael Morpurgo said,

"We must ensure that enjoyment of literature takes precedence over learning the rules of literacy, especially in the early years".

Or, as explained more bluntly by another former laureate, Michael Rosen,

"You read, you have a good time. That should be the end of it."

Our children are going to have a great time reading in here and we hope that you have a great time exploring our library today.

Thank you.