

Literacy Lift Off

Bennettsbridge NS also implements the Literacy Lift Off programme from Senior Infants to Second Class. Literacy Lift Off is an intervention that gives children lots of opportunities to read books at their own level of competency and gradually 'lift' the complexity of what they can achieve in both reading and writing. Each class receive a block of intervention four times a week for 5/6 weeks. The Special Education Team work with the class teacher to deliver this programme.

Literacy Lift Off is essentially a guided reading programme with work tailored to meet the needs of each individual group.

A brief assessment is administered to group the children and to pitch the books at their appropriate level. At the end of intervention children are reassessed and progress recorded.

Pupils participate in:

- **Station 1: Familiar Reading**

Pupils read previously seen readers/chapters.

Purpose: Development of enjoyment, fluency, comprehension and speed

- **Station 2: Word Work**

Pupils use magnetic letters to make and break words.

Purpose: To develop the child's phonological awareness (sounds in words, rhyme, syllables, segmenting words etc.) and phonics (blending sounds to make words, learning phonic rules etc.)

- **Station 3: Writing**

Pupils write sentences and stories based on relevant themes.

Purpose: To encourage the pupil to become an independent writer

- **Station 4: New Reading**

Encountering new texts at each session challenges the pupils to discover new ways to go beyond their current operating ability and lift their literacy processing.

Purpose: Pupils learn to use comprehension strategies to read new texts.

How can I help my child become a better reader?

As with anything, performance improves with practice. Encourage your child to read at home. Create a culture of reading in your household by reading with your child, starting a home library, visiting your local library or bookstore on a regular basis, letting your child see you reading, and discussing books that each of you has read. When reading with your child, stop and ask questions to be sure your child is comprehending what is read. Reading with your child, no matter what the child's age, is an important part of developing a good reader.

