

Phonics and Reading

At St James' CE Primary school, we use a number of different strategies to promote a child's love of books and encourage them to become confident, independent readers. The children are provided with many opportunities to read, enjoy and share books as well as being exposed to a language rich environment. We have two libraries which the children are able to use. Throughout the school day children are provided with opportunities to engage in various activities to develop and strengthen their literacy skills, including guided reading sessions, story times, reading buddies and one to one reading.

Phonics

At St James' CE Primary School, pre-reading skills are taught using synthetic phonics and the school follows the government published programme 'Letters and Sounds'. This sets out a detailed programme for teaching phonic skills, with the aim of pupils becoming fluent readers by the age of seven. It aims to build pupils' speaking and listening skills, as well as prepare pupils to learn to read, by developing their phonic knowledge and skills.

The phonemes (sounds) are systematically taught before the children are shown how to blend them for reading and segmenting them for writing. Alongside this the children are taught the 'high frequency words' (those words which do not entirely follow the phonic rules).

The children are taught within the Phonics phase that is appropriate to their level of development. They are assessed on a regular basis and groups are sorted accordingly. Teachers and teaching assistants in the Early Years and Key Stage One classes are all involved in the daily teaching of Phonics.

Reading Schemes

Throughout KS1, pupils are provided with a range of fiction and non-fiction books to read both in school and at home. These are selected to match their current reading level and are regularly changed to aid progression with their reading. Each child has a set of Reading Record sheets in school, which are used to keep a track of the books they have

read. Parents are requested to listen to their children read and encouraged to write comments in their individual Home-School Reading Record book.

We use the popular and well- established *Oxford Reading Tree* scheme. This includes a large number of *Floppy Phonics* and *Songbirds* reading books, which support and enhance the teaching of Phonics in school. In addition to this, there are *Collins Big Cat books*, *Project Xreading* books and *Oxford Traditional Tales* books which are all Book Banded and used in our Guided Reading groups.

As pupils move into KS2 (Key Stage 2), they continue to follow a reading scheme in order that they learn more advanced deduction and inference skills. The school uses a number of reading scheme books in order to provide variety. Both the "Home-School Readers" and the Guided Reading sets of books have been grouped according to Book Bands and Reading Ages. Once the children become fluent readers, they are encouraged to select their own reading books.