

## How do we teach reading?

At St. Joseph's we recognise that reading is a vital life skill and so our aim is to use high quality texts to develop both reading comprehension skills but also a love of reading.

We use the Mastery English approach to ensure whole class teacher led reading has high precedence within our daily English lessons. We use a 'text based' approach to English where we immerse the class in a high quality text. During English lessons we teach specific reading skills, grammar skills and features of a differing genres. This style of teaching encourages use of language discussions, widens children's vocabulary and has a focus on higher order reading skills.

Across ks1 and ks2, teachers model reciprocal reading skills (summarising, asking questions, clarifying and predicting) which the children are then encouraged to use.

At the end of every day, all classes enjoy being read to by their class teacher. Our passion is to develop enthusiastic and reflective readers who love to read.

## How do we teach phonics?

We recognise phonics are the first step to your child learning to read. We use the Read Write Inc phonics programme to support the early development of phonics and reading.

We take on a whole school approach to the teaching of phonics and spellings and dedicate the first half an hour each day to specific phonics and spelling teaching. In Ks1 and Y3 they use the RWI phonics programme and in ks2 Y4-Y6 are taught specific spellings.

## How do we assess reading?

In the summer term of year 1, we carry out a government phonics check of all the children. Children who do not pass the phonics check in y1 will retake the assessment during y2.

In KS1 we recognise that each child is unique and will progress at their own speed. By the end of Y2, most children will be able to read aloud books that are the right level for them. We use Oxford Reading Tree colour bandings. Your child will have a reading record so that you can see what colour banding they are on and read with them at home.

Once children have completed Oxford Reading Tree Reading scheme they will become a "free reader" and be able to choose their own texts to read.

Across the school, teachers use an ongoing assessment approach focusing on specific reading skills. Teachers are then able to use these ongoing assessment to plan the teaching of reading according to the needs of their class. At the end of a term we assess the children's comprehension skills with a termly Rising stars' assessment.

### How else do we support the teaching of reading?

- Reading volunteers- we are lucky at St. Joseph's to have regular volunteers who come and read 1:1 with children. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please enquire at our school office.
- Reading intervention- we recognise that some children may need additional support to practise reading skills. Children are supported through 1:1 reading and high quality support from teaching assistants.
- Whole school events- every year we take part in world book day and plan fun and engaging lessons based on a chosen text.