

# **School Phonics and Reading Schemes**

## **Our approach to the teaching of reading**

At St Mary's we believe the ability to read is the most important skill that children learn and is fundamental to pupils' development as independent learners. We strive to continuously raise standards in reading for our children and promote it not only as a lifelong enjoyable activity, but as a purposeful, lifelong skill.

In order to read across the curriculum with fluency, accuracy, understanding and enjoyment, our children need to be skilled in word recognition (decoding words) and comprehension (understanding). Word recognition is taught through daily phonics sessions in line with 'Letters and Sounds', enabling children to decode (read) and encode (spell) words accurately. Comprehension is taught specifically in guided reading sessions, where children are provided with the opportunity to deepen their understanding by responding to questions about texts. Both word recognition and comprehension feature throughout the teaching of all subjects, so that reading is fully integrated into the curriculum.

## **Our reading scheme**

Our reading scheme consists of a variety of publishers so that our children have exposure to a wealth of high quality texts. There is a balance between fiction and non-fiction texts to ensure that our children read not only great narrative (story) books, but exciting non-fiction (fact) books too.

In the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) our children begin reading using 100% decodable texts (the level of decoding is linked to the child's phonics ability). They then continue using decodable texts throughout Key Stage 1 alongside texts from the 'Collins Big Cat' and 'Oxford Reading Tree' schemes. In Key Stage 2 our children have access to texts from 'Collins Big Cat', 'Oxford Reading Tree' and 'Pearson Bug Club'.

We provide further enrichment to our reading scheme with these resources:

- Class libraries
- Comics, magazines and newspapers
- E-texts
- Texts linked to a specific author focus
- A 'literature spine' to ensure our children hear a range of high quality texts from a variety of inspirational authors
- Texts linked to the National Curriculum 2014 for each class
- Texts reflecting the diversity of our children, including texts in a variety of languages
- Access to books from the Bolton School Library Service