

Reading and Phonics at St Matthew's C.E. School

Phonics



At our school, we take a whole class and group approach to the teaching of phonics. Following the 'Letters and Sounds' document, we ensure that through this systematic and structured approach, all children are supported to keep up with the ideal pace of learning, as well as appropriately challenging those that require it.

There are 5 sessions taught per week. Any children requiring additional phonics support in KS2, will be referred to a phonics intervention group. Close monitoring and assessment will inform interventions. In highlighting gaps early on, we ensure that children make expected/accelerated progress.

Reading



At St Matthew's, the reading curriculum takes into account the wide variety/forms of reading, both in and out of school now universally valued as essential tools for the 21st Century; including digital, online and moving image media. **We encourage teachers to develop their own expertise as readers, to create a community of readers in the school.**

When choosing texts, we look for a balance of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Reading is one of the most important ways in which children observe and absorb the best language skills. So, while components, such as grammar and vocabulary are important in the new curriculum, they will also be taught in a contextualised way, through the enjoyment of shared reading.

The school's main reading scheme is Scholastics PM Books. We also use a range of phonetically decodable texts, to support the early stages of reading. Once pupils are confident, we encourage teachers to use quality texts to support the teaching of reading skills and deepen reading for pleasure.