

Reading and Phonics at St-Matthew's



At St Matthew's children start to learn phonics once they are settled into the Reception class. We follow the **Read Write Inc** scheme of work with adaptations to suit the school. There are three sets of sounds to work through, Set 1, Set 2 and Set 3. All children learn all of Set 1 and Set 2 sounds in Reception and are assessed regularly, to check they recognise them and can apply them. During Year 1 children revise Set 1 and Set 2 and learn Set 3. During the Reception Year and Year 1, sounds and word lists are sent home for children to learn with their parents. We provide information sessions for parents at the start of the Reception year to inform them how best to learn phonics at home with their child.



In Reception, the whole class learns together with small groups working with a Teaching Assistant regularly and small groups doing Guided Reading with the Teacher, once they are confident with their sounds. Children learn in Reception how to read with a partner, how to blend their sounds, how to read 'red' words and how to 'segment' sounds to write a word. Eventually, through daily modelling using "Hold a Sentence" (saying a sentence again and again in different voices and then writing it) they learn what a sentence is and how to write one. Children in Reception have busy books and whiteboards to practice writing words and sentences on.



In Year 1 and 2 children are assessed regularly (every 6-8 weeks) and organised into smaller groups across the Key Stage according to their progress. The work on sound recognition, reading and writing words and continue with **Hold a Sentence** and daily **Guided Reading**. By the end of Year 2 the vast majority of children have completed their phonics and are reading fluently. In Year 2 the focus moves from phonics towards more complex comprehension work using a range of reading texts.

The Year 1 phonics check:

At St Matthew's we ensure that no child gets left behind and all children are thoroughly prepared for this statutory test. This government assessment takes place in **June of Year 1** and during the term beforehand, we give individualised support to children who need it to ensure they are ready. The actual test is delivered on an individual basis by the class teacher and done in a unhurried and nurturing manner because we recognise that some children may find this kind of activity stressful. Parents are informed straight away if their child has been successful or unsuccessful and children re-take this assessment again in Year 2 if they weren't able to in Year 1. Our phonics results are consistently above UK averages and show how well we support children with this crucial aspect of learning to read

Reading for pleasure:

At St Matthew's we foster a culture of Reading for Pleasure. This means that children are encouraged to love books, seek out authors they enjoy, read widely and discuss their reading. To facilitate this we have regular visits to our **well stocked library** in the afternoons for Key Stage One and the library is open for Key Stage 2 to borrow books with a specific lunchtime timetable. We also have regular **'ERIC'** sessions in the classroom (Everybody Reading In Class) where everybody reads (including the teacher) a book/magazine/comic of their own choice. Children are allowed to choose any reading matter (not screen based) either brought in from home or from the class book corner and read, in a relaxed manner, for a certain amount of time.



'ERIC' time in Year 2

Once a year, we hold a **Scholastic Book Fair**, in the hall during Parents evenings and this allows us to raise money to re-stock the library or classroom's book corners and children to choose a book of their choice at a reasonable price. These are always popular and successful. We celebrate **World Book Day** yearly with dressing up, a book swap in the hall and recently we had a Relax and Read session in the hall with parents, which was very popular.

