



Phonics at St John's

Phonics is the method of teaching children to read and write by developing their awareness of sounds and the letter patterns used to create them. We follow the Little Wandle Synthetics Phonics Programme that has been approved by the Department for Education.

Each day, all children from Year R - Year 2 have lessons in which they progressively learn to recognise, use and apply their phonic knowledge. We want our pupils to learn phonics quickly and confidently, so that by the end of Key Stage 1 they are fluent readers who are also able to apply phonetic knowledge to their writing.

Continuous assessment of phonics is carried out by the class teachers and monitored by the Reading Leader and Senior Leadership Team. There is also a statutory requirement for all Year 1 pupils to take a phonics screening in the month of June. They are required to apply their phonic skills to read a range of real and made-up words. The results of the screening test are reported to parents and published (as percentages of pupils that have met the expected standard) nationally.

Pupils who need extra support with phonics and spelling in all year groups at St John's receive 'keep up sessions' and tailored interventions to meet their needs and support them to continue to make progress.



Reading at St John's

From the moment children arrive at St John's, they are immersed in a wealth of reading opportunities and encouraged to develop an appreciation and a love of reading – whether through discussing, dramatising, interrogating a text or simply reading for pleasure and choice. By the time our pupils leave us in Y6, we expect them to be accomplished readers who are able to command a wide range of reading skills.

Children work progressively through coloured book bands and closely matched phonic decodable books, firstly to support their phonic application and word recognition, then moving onto other skills such as inference and deduction. Our book bands have recently been updated, so that we are continually able to offer relevant texts within a wide range of genres to ensure a broad and interesting reading experience.

Modelled and guided reading throughout the week, provides opportunities for pupils to read challenging texts and target specific skills that will develop them further as readers. We have key texts for each year group to read and focus authors as well as resources such as 'The Day' Bug Club and First News.

The library is central to our school both in its physical position and metaphorically. It is used throughout the day for learning, reading for pleasure and for small group work. Parents are able to visit the school library after school with their children and choose books to loan. Once pupils have progressed through the book bands, they become a free-reader and are able to select an appropriate reading book from the well-stocked library independently. We are always signed up and committed to the various reading initiatives promoted by the School Library Service and work in partnership with them to ensure that Reading is an important part of our school's Cultural Capital.

