



# St Thomas's C E Primary School

## Reading and Phonics



At St Thomas's School we aim to provide high quality teaching and learning experiences which allow the children to become not only skilled and fluent readers, but also in them developing a lifelong love of reading.

### **Phonics**

Our children are taught phonics through the use of Read, Write Inc. strategies and this is further enhanced in all areas of the Early Years and Key Stage One curriculum. Read, Write, Inc. is a systematic approach to teaching early reading and writing skills.

Alongside this the children are immersed in an environment which is rich in sounds and vocabulary from Nursery, which ensures they are prepared with the necessary strategies for reading right from the start of their learning journey.

The children are taught phonics every day, through a systematic and discrete lesson and they are grouped by their phonetic ability.

For further information about the teaching of Read, Write, Inc. and for advice on how to support your child at home, please visit

[www.ruthmiskin.com](http://www.ruthmiskin.com)

Other useful websites are:

**BBC – there are a number of resources available through the BBC website, for example:**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/phonics/play/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures/index.shtml>

**ICT games**

<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html>

### **Reading**

Reading is at the very heart of our school curriculum and we recognise the importance of it in all of our lessons. Reading is a lifelong skill and we aim to encourage and instil a love of reading through immersing our children in a rich reading curriculum.

The children choose their home reading books from coloured book bands. Within each band there is a variety of fiction, poetry, play scripts and non-fiction books. We use a variety of Reading Schemes (including Oxford Reading Tree, Storyworld, Songbirds and Collins Big Cat) as well as 'real books.' These books are for the children to practise their reading skills at home.

Within class, reading is taught in Guided Reading sessions where the teacher will focus on a particular reading skill and this is recorded in their Yellow Reading Record for them to then practise at home. Each class has a Reading challenge which motivates and encourages the children to read as often as possible.