



## ST. ANDREW'S CE (VA) JUNIOR SCHOOL



*"Promoting Excellence Within a Caring Christian Community"*

### Teaching Reading

#### **How We Teach Reading at St. Andrew's Junior School**

Reading with fluency and confidence is one of the most important things your child will ever learn. We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we at St. Andrew's work hard to make sure children develop a love of books, as well as simply learning to read.

When your child enters our school in Year 3, they will be assessed, and any phonics difficulties will be identified. Don't worry - all children progress at different rates. If your child is struggling, they will be given extra support, usually through the highly successful Read Write Inc. programme.

Teachers will continue to revisit phonics teaching, as needed, to reinforce learning. However, you may notice a change in the approach to reading once your child starts Key Stage 2: at this point, children should begin to find decoding words less challenging and be ready to focus more on understanding and interpreting what they read.

While all children are encouraged to read routinely at home, those in lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4) are expected to read nightly, with parents/carers recording progress in their child's Reading Record. All children also read in school with an adult on a regular basis, often 1:1 or in a small group. Teachers will also add notes in the child's record so that parents can see how their child is progressing.

Literacy lessons are based around whole books, which give children a chance to explore exciting, more challenging texts than they might read themselves. Activities include working with talking partners, watching video clips, using interactive whiteboard games or iPads, and exploration through drama. These engaging methods help your child to develop their reading skills, so that they move beyond simple decoding of texts to interpreting, understanding and enjoying what they read. Every class also holds regular Guided Reading sessions. The children are grouped according to reading ability so that the teacher can focus on their specific needs. Children are engaged in quality independent or group literacy tasks.

In addition to class based work, children can also develop their enjoyment for reading throughout school. They have the opportunity to access the school library to choose from a wider range of books. Parents can access this resource, too, and are invited to join their child in the library before Friday's Golden Book assembly. Every classroom has a smaller library of regularly changed books, which further promotes and encourages reading for pleasure.

Finally, to inspire children even more, we hold regular events at school, such as World Book Day, the Scholastic Book Fair and visits by authors and poets. It's all about reading for pleasure, and our aim is to motivate your child to explore the world through books.

**What can parents/carers do to help?**

The single most important thing you can do is read with your child for enjoyment. Not only will this broaden their vocabulary and understanding of books, they will always associate reading with the pleasure of being with you!

Remember - if you have any concerns or queries, do not hesitate to phone us for a chat.