

## **Phonics and Reading**

*Reading is taught very well, and attainment is well above average, supporting learning in all lessons. Pupils show great enthusiasm for reading, and read widely for pleasure and for research. (Ofsted 2012)*

The teaching of reading is given high importance at St. Mary's. We believe that reading unlocks access to all academic learning.

We teach early reading skills (phonics) using the "Jolly Phonics" approach and resources. We have customised this approach to meet the needs of our learners. In Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes, phonics is taught for 20 minutes each day. We also use the Oxford Reading Tree as our main early reading scheme. This is currently under review.

In Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2) and Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6) reading skills are also taught during the daily English lesson. During these lessons children will experience:

- Shared reading – whole class teaching with a shared text.
- Guided reading – Reading is taught to a group by a member of staff. The group read the same text. In KS1 the children practise applying their phonics skills to read words as well as talking about the text to develop comprehension. In KS2 the focus is on fluency and comprehension.

We also provide opportunities for individual reading each week. Children read to a member of staff or a volunteer. Children read independently during the week. This individual reading is monitored by staff.

## **Home Reading**

Children bring their individual reading books home. We encourage parents to support their child's reading by listening to them read at home or for fluent readers by encouraging them to read widely. We hope that all children will learn to read for pleasure, we also actively encourage them to choose books, fiction and non-fiction, from the school libraries to take home, to read and enjoy.