



The Teaching of Early Reading at St Joseph's

In St Joseph's we are determined that every child will become a fluent and confident reader regardless of their background, needs or abilities. We promote a love of reading throughout the school, with daily story-times, where children listen to a range of genres including stories, poems, rhymes and non-fiction, dedicated reading areas, a well-stocked and well-used library as well as class books which the children become very familiar with.

The teaching of early reading is prioritised at St Joseph's by using a systematic, synthetic phonics programme together with word recognition **from the very start of YR**. All teachers have received dedicated phonics training from an expert in the field and we have a 'phonics champion' in school to promote and support the teaching of phonics in school.

St Joseph's reading scheme comprises a combination of phonics-based, fully decodeable books (Rising Stars) alongside a series of word recognition, or 'sight reading', books (ORT Biff, Chip & Kipper) which introduces high frequency words. The sequence of our reading scheme is based on a cumulative progression in phonics that closely matches our phonics programme. Supplementary books are available at each level for those children needing additional support. Employing both phonics and work recognition in the teaching of early reading provides children with different of methods of accessing reading which enables them to succeed and progress quickly, building motivation and helping them to develop a love of reading.

Phonics

At St Joseph's we teach a full systematic, synthetic phonics programme from the very start. In September 2020, EY and KS1 will be running a pilot of the Anima Phonics full systematic, synthetic phonics programme www.animaphonics.com, delivering the core criteria for an effective phonics teaching programme, as outlined by the Department for Education. It is vibrant, up to date and offers a fun, multi-sensory approach to learning.

We ensure that our books match the sounds being taught by using a phonics programme (Anima Phonics) and a reading scheme (Rising Stars) that are both based on Letters and Sounds, the DfE phonics scheme.

Anima combines Phase 2 and 3 (taught in YR Autumn term) into a single unit, with some digraphs introduced earlier (than in L&S). Whilst this is slightly different to the standard L&S order, **ALL 44 Phase 2 & 3 phonemes are introduced during the Autumn term**, exactly as in L&S and in the Rising Stars Phase 2 & 3 books.

To ensure an exact match of reading materials and phonics learning, **Anima Phonics provides daily reading activities** (reading pages and poems). These recap the sound learnt at school that day, providing an extra opportunity for children to solidify their new knowledge.

YR children will receive the reading pages and poems for the corresponding sounds of the week every Monday (replacing Jolly Phonics sounds) to practise on throughout the week at home and in school, in conjunction with their reading scheme books.

From Phase 4 (YR Spring / Summer term) **onwards** Anima lessons follow the exact order of Letters and Sounds.