

## **Approach to reading.**

In St Michael's Federation, our approach to reading starts in the nursery classes.

In the early years, story time provides a valuable introduction to books, including the language and structure of stories and non-fiction texts. Children learn and sing rhymes, which help them to focus on and identify sounds in words. A range of speaking and listening activities develop pre-reading skills, which will later help children to distinguish between individual sounds in words. In the summer term of their final year in Nursery, children are introduced to the first sets of letters and start to learn the basics of reading.

In their Reception Year, children have 30 min phonics sessions every day. They learn all of the letters of the alphabet and some sounds that are represented by two letters. For example, sh, ee, ay. They will initially have word boxes to bring home and practise reading using their phonic knowledge and will later move on to reading books.

In Year One and Two children continue to have daily phonics sessions and will also work in guided reading groups, where they sit down with an adult and read and discuss a text together. This helps to improve their ability to comprehend the texts they read as well as to be able to use their phonic knowledge to decipher the texts. They will continue to have levelled reading books, but may move on to free readers by the end of Year two, where they can choose age appropriate texts to take home to read.

In KS2 children will continue to have phonics sessions each week, but these may only be 20 mins long and only once or twice a week. In these sessions, children are taught how to break down longer words into syllables to help them tackle more challenging texts. English grammar lessons also focus on the morphology of words, so that children can start to make reasoned guesses at the meaning of new vocabulary.

Throughout their years at Primary School, we introduce children to a range of books, fiction, non-fiction and poetry to encourage reading for pleasure as well as for information. Careful questioning and discussions around texts, help children to develop their comprehension skills. Reading at home is a vital part of the learning process and children who regular read at home, make more rapid progress in their reading development in school.