



### Reading

***“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places that you will go.” Dr Seuss***

At St James' Church of England Primary School, we recognise that the ability to read independently and effectively for meaning is one of the most important skills that we can teach our children. It allows children access to all other areas of the curriculum and is a vital life skill. Therefore, we place the systematic teaching of reading at the very heart of our curriculum.

The National Curriculum focuses on two dimensions for reading:

-  word reading
-  comprehension (both listening and reading).

Teaching at St James' Church of England Primary School focuses on developing pupils' competence in both dimensions. The teaching of reading is systematic and sequential across school. We recognise the importance of 'being able to read and comprehend' as being central to accessing all other areas of the curriculum and the world around them. All pupils are encouraged to read widely across both fiction and non-fiction to develop their knowledge of themselves and the world in which they live. Children have access to a wealth of books of all genres and library sessions. We seek to establish an appreciation and love of reading as we know that reading widely increases pupils' vocabulary because they encounter words they would rarely hear or use in everyday speech. Reading also feeds pupils' imagination and opens up a realm of wonder and joy for curious young minds.

We read with and to children through a wide range of independent, shared, comprehension and class reading activities in order to develop children who 'are readers' rather than 'read'. We aim to nurture a love of books and a desire to read for pleasure through the sharing and constantly updated provision of high quality reading materials.

### Wider Reading and Enrichment

Every half term, or term, classes will share a class novel. These engaging texts will model varied and ambitious vocabulary and provide a vehicle for learning both in English and other subjects. Reading for pleasure is promoted throughout the school and each child has time to visit the school library. We also take part in events and celebrations such as World Book Day and the FAB Book Awards. We continually read and share class texts with the children in each year group to promote a love of reading and to increase the children's vocabulary. All classrooms have a reading corner which are stocked with a variety of texts and children are encouraged to use these as much as possible.