



Our Ambition for Reading

Our ambition is for every child to read by 7 using a synthetic phonics approach and to develop a love of reading for fluency and comprehension in order to access a broad and balanced curriculum.

We do everything to make this happen.

Central to learning is creating a life-long love of reading and books and at St Michael's, it is our belief that every child should be able to read for pleasure and to a high standard. We want to develop our children's imagination, to open up a treasure house of wonder and joy for curious young minds. We also believe that every child should be given the skills to develop into an enthusiastic and confident reader both at home and at school. Reading improves language and vocabulary, inspires imagination and gives everyone the opportunity to develop and foster new interests.

Every child is taught to become a confident, independent reader through the use of the synthetic phonics approach. Early reading in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 is taught through 'Read, Write Inc' on a daily basis. This approach enables children to learn and use sounds to blend and decode words for reading.

Read Write Inc.

Once the children have learnt how to read, they can then learn to comprehend and understand the text they are reading. Texts are engaging and provide them with the opportunity to practise their phonic sounds. Children are encouraged to use these strategies independently to understand, enjoy and learn from a range of texts. Through this, the children will become fluent, expressive readers with the stamina to enjoy challenging texts. Book discussion is widely encouraged in class which supports them to empathise with characters, share opinions and debate topics.

Teachers nurture a love of books by placing reading at the centre of the curriculum, introducing new texts with enthusiasm and enjoyment, promoting a sense of wonder and expectation as the text is explored. The children at St Michael's have independent access to a wide variety of high-quality texts in our school library. All teachers use quality texts across the curriculum and provide opportunities that extend and enrich the children's learning. It is these skills and opportunities that we believe give our children the necessary skills to become thoughtful and confident readers for life, which helps them in everything they do.



We know that reading at home is an essential part of children becoming excellent readers. Children are encouraged to read regularly at home and we work with parents and carers to make this a successful and enjoyable experience.