



## **Phonics and Reading Statement St John Fisher School**

### **Aims**

St John Fisher Catholic School believe that reading is a skill which is taught through planned, systematic phonics lessons which lead to the enjoyment of all kinds of books, the appreciation of different genres and the ability to access information independently.

Through their own reading, we hope that children will develop their love of literature and be able to understand and justify their own choice of books.

Our Primary aims are:

- To develop phonetic skills which lead to blending and reading fluently.
- To promote confidence and positive attitudes to reading.
- To promote and encourage good home/school links using a wide range of literature.
- To equip children with critical tools so they are able to analyse what they read.
- To give children access to a wide range of fiction and information books.
- To support those who are progressing slowly in acquiring reading skills through a personalised reading program.

### **Phonics**

When teaching reading and phonics, St John Fisher Catholic School follows the Jolly Phonics approach in Reception alongside Letters and Sounds. In Years 1 and 2 they continue with Letters and Sounds and also use Phonics Play to support phonic knowledge and understanding. Our approach is systematic, consistent and rigorous in order that all children become readers as quickly as possible.

The alphabetic code is taught first with children learning new sounds and practising the pronunciation and blending of these sounds on a daily basis. Simple actions help the children grasp the letter sounds quickly. Then we match the sounds pupils know to the books they read, getting children to read those books a few times which helps them to read using expression.

## Reading Schemes

At St John Fisher Catholic School, all our early reading books are colour/steps banded. Your child will be given a colour/step band to choose their home reading book from which will help to ensure that the book they select is at about the right reading level for them. Every colour band includes books from a range of reading schemes so that they will experience a range of stories, text types and illustrations. The 'step' books replace the old level books used in year 2.