

Early Reading and Phonics Offer - 2023/2024

At St Botolph's we believe in the importance of building a love of reading from an early age. The teaching of reading begins as soon as the children join our school - this is where their reading journey truly begins! We prioritise and promote reading in all areas of school and our reading offer is underpinned by strong Phonics practice and high expectations. We expect *all* of our children to be fluent, confident and passionate lifelong readers.

<p>We prioritise reading from the very start of school.</p>	<p>From the very start of their school journey, children actively participate in Phonics/Read Write Inc (RWI) activities and sessions and are surrounded by a reading culture built on vocabulary development and diverse, quality texts. Reading, whether for learning or pleasure, is actively promoted and celebrated by staff from the beginning of school.</p>
<p>We promote a love of books and reading.</p>	<p>Our school promotes and celebrates a love of reading around school. Our EYFS children use their 'word aware' sessions to learn new vocabulary and KS1 classes actively enjoy daily Talk Through Stories sessions that broaden the children's text experiences and builds upon vocabulary.</p> <p>Engaging daily story times and class novels are also embedded in later year groups. Our younger readers in particular enjoy nursery rhymes and talking/sharing of books and stories. Our EYFS</p> <p>School book fairs and events occur throughout the school year and our 'Reading Ambassadors' in KS2 are seen by younger children as aspirational figures to aim to become. Reading books are changed appropriately with a culture of fluency and enjoyment promoted to parents/carers via events and other communications.</p>
<p>We deliver Read Write Inc with fidelity.</p>	<p>We carefully and rigorously deliver Read Write Inc Phonics (RWI), with impact, from Nursery to Year 3. Our staff are well trained, coached and mentored and deliver the programme with fidelity, enthusiasm and high expectations for all. Staff are fully involved and briefed with regards to children's needs, gaps and next steps during weekly RWI meetings.</p> <p>Our early readers are assessed frequently to ensure they are moved on in their reading journey in a timely manner.</p>
<p>We ensure that our reading and phonics journeys begin at the very start of school.</p>	<p>The 'reading magic' begins in our Families Enjoying Everything Together (FEET) sessions in the term before children start Nursery. Our word rich and vocabulary rich Early Years environments support our story times, reading events and experiences from the very start by early phonics listening activities in Nursery across into Autumn Term. These activities develop phonological awareness and listening skills to enable Nursery children to actively engage with the RWI Nursery programme in readiness for a strong start in Reception.</p> <p>Reception staff work closely together and with the Early Reading/Phonics leader to robustly assess, group and organise their early readers. From the very start of Reception there is focused and bespoke intervention to ensure all children can keep up with the programme from the very start.</p>
<p>We ensure that reading books are carefully matched to the children's ability.</p>	<p>We regularly and rigorously assess our children using the RWI online system, which informs focused additional 1:1 fast track tutoring and organisation of matched reading books. Within daily RWI sessions the children read appropriately matched books and then later take home matched books. To supplement this, children take home an unfamiliar book that is also matched to their ability. The match and suitability of these books are continually monitored by staff in school.</p>
<p>We invest in all children as readers with an extra commitment to those who need additional support.</p>	<p>We fully appreciate and understand that there will be those early readers who require additional support to become a great reader. Parental engagement events for focus families are held in school to raise the profile of reading and Phonics.</p> <p>We also have a wider commitment to daily 1:1 fast track tutoring for those Reception and KS1 children who require further support and this tuition is carefully pitched and personalised for each child. In school, we then ensure that our lower attaining RWI groups are as small as possible and these groups are taught daily by our stronger phonics practitioners. Each class in school has a daily reader file, where those lower attaining children are listened to by the class staff.</p>
<p>We ensure that staff are actively trained in Phonics and Early Reading.</p>	<p>Our RWI teaching team are active partners in our early reading offer, with optimum opportunities for CPD. Staff participate in weekly training meetings and are receptive to ongoing coaching in lessons. All RWI staff have access to the Ruth Miskin Training portal to help support and strengthen their practice. The ER Leader regularly monitors this training portal and tailors this to suit each staff need.</p> <p>The ER/Phonics lead also appropriately and regularly informs staff of specific analysis and information regarding their groups. Ongoing staff support and development is also provided by our Trust and Ruth Miskin Development Days with our dedicated RWI consultant.</p>

