

## **READING AND PHONICS**

At Redland Primary School we are passionate about teaching children to read. Reading helps develop children's vocabulary, their writing and their spelling. Reading gives children access to the wider curriculum and enriches their lives. It is our intention that all children leave the school as confident and competent readers.

Reading and phonics are taught in accordance with the new National Curriculum 2014. We predominantly use The Oxford Reading Tree scheme but supplement this with books from other schemes including Collins. All Children take reading scheme books home and parents are encouraged to use the Reading Record Book as a way of communicating with the school about reading. As children develop as readers they move on to our 'Free Reader' texts which are drawn from current and classic children's literature. We want children to have a diet of 'real' books. We have a non-fiction library and all classes have their own stock of fiction and non-fiction texts.

We acknowledge that each child's reading journey begins before they start school. In The EYFS phonics is the main focus of our teaching and children are introduced to this using the Letters and Sounds programme. Teaching phonics in this systematic way gives children the knowledge and skills to crack the 'reading code'. We operate a multi-sensory approach to our teaching with children using the Jolly Phonics actions to help learn the letters and their sounds. Developing a vocabulary of known words is also prioritised by the school. As soon as possible, we want to children to both recognise the majority of words they encounter and have the phonic knowledge and skills to decode those words they cannot read on sight.

At Redland reading is taught in English lessons and in guided group sessions. Children also read individually to practice and refine their skills. Alongside phonic knowledge and skills children are taught to use a range of decoding strategies. These include using the context to make sure any word fits in the text. Children are also taught how to use the punctuation and other reading cues to make the best use of voice inflection and expression.

Reading for meaning is vital at every stage of learning to read and this continues a significant focus throughout the school. Once children can read independently comprehension becomes a vital component of many reading sessions and English activities.

As a school we encourage all our pupils to read both in school and at home. 'Book share' is a proven method of helping children develop as readers but any discussion about what has been read, has benefits beyond words. Parents are given our leaflet 'How to help your reception child with Literacy' as part of our welcome sessions and all staff encourage parents to come in and discuss any issues relating to their children's reading.