

## Reading and Phonics at St Patrick's

### Reading KS1

At St Patrick's, reading books are graded by difficulty into different colours known as Book Bands. By colour banding our books we have been able to put a bigger variety of different scheme books in one level, providing children with greater choice of text and genre. Books included in the scheme are: Oxford Reading Tree, Collins and Collins Phonics and a variety of well-known authors matching the correct book band level. The reading scheme aims to promote reading confidence through gradual progression, to provide children with the tools they need to become successful readers. It does this through the use of natural language structures and rhythms of speech, the gentle introduction of new words, which are then subsequently reinforced, clear story structure, accessible story content, where meaning is the key and a close match between the text and the illustrations.

We aim to ensure that the children progress through the levels but it is extremely important that they are able to read for meaning, understanding & have read a wide variety of books at each level. This includes reading non-fiction texts as well as fiction books.

We also use the PM Benchmark Kits, which provide a comprehensive assessment tool for children in both Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, to ensure consistent and accurate levelling in reading.

Each week the children will have guided reading sessions where an adult will use a variety of books from Collins Big Cat to look closely at your child's reading.

### KS2

Many children will still continue to use books from the Book Banding range, in the juniors. Others may progress to Library books. Children will be monitored through Running Records & the Benchmark Kit, to ensure that they are on the right instructional level for reading ability. Teachers will also direct pupils' to quality reads and continue to engage their reading.

The children will also have weekly guided reading sessions where a variety of books and texts are selected to be read & discussed, using reading assessment foci: Collins Big Cat and various texts chosen by the class teacher to engage and inspire young readers (year 6) ensuring that they are delving deeper into the meaning.

### Phonics

Foundation's approach to the teaching of reading is by using systematic synthetic phonics. We use Letters and Sounds and Jolly Phonics, to assist with our teaching.

Letters and Sounds is a 'Synthetic Phonics' approach to teaching reading and writing.

It involves teaching children to listen for the sounds they hear in the words, to recognise the letters that represent those sounds and to recall that information when they are writing.

Phonics runs from phases 1 - 6. By the end of Year 2, pupils should have completed phase 6 and be learning different spelling patterns. The patterns progress as the children move through the school.