

Intent

At St Cuthbert's C of E Infants & Pre School, our intent is to foster a lifelong love of reading in every child, beginning in EYFS and leading into Key Stage 1. We aim to build confident, fluent, and passionate readers who see reading not only as a fundamental skill but also as a source of enjoyment, discovery, and imagination. Our reading curriculum is designed to:

- Develop children's phonological awareness and early decoding skills through systematic phonics teaching.
- Broaden vocabulary and deepen comprehension through exposure to a wide range of high-quality texts.
- Cultivate children's ability to read fluently and with expression enabling them to access all areas of the curriculum.
- Encourage regular reading for pleasure and provide access to rich and diverse reading experiences.
- Promote empathy, curiosity, and a deeper understanding of the world through carefully chosen fiction, non – fiction, poetry, and culturally diverse literature.

Implementation

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum and is taught through a combination of discrete sessions and cross – curricular learning. Our approach includes:

- **Systematic Synthetic Phonics:** Daily phonics lessons using **Twinkl Phonics**, ensuring consistency and progression. Phonics assessments guide intervention and support.
- **Decodable Books:** Pupils are given reading books that are fully decodable and closely matched to their phonics knowledge to develop confidence and accuracy.
- **Guided Reading and Whole – Class Reading:** Regular guided sessions focus on reading fluency, comprehension, vocabulary development and inferencing skills, using a variety of engaging and age – appropriate texts.
- **Reading Across the Curriculum:** Opportunities to read and be read to are embedded across subjects, reinforcing vocabulary and comprehension through cross – curricular themes.
- **Story Time:** Daily read aloud sessions expose children to rich language, varied genres, and diverse authors, creating a love of storytelling and reading culture. Mystery reader sessions and a reading café enhance our reading culture across our school.
- **Home Reading:** A strong partnership with parents is fostered through reading records, parent workshops and access to our Rhino Reader scheme and high quality texts for home reading.
- **Reading Environment:** Our classrooms and library spaces are literacy rich, with inviting book corners, displays, and regular reading challenges and events.

Impact

The impact of our reading curriculum is evident in the progress and enthusiasm of our pupils. By the end of Key Stage 1, children will:

- Achieve age – related expectations in reading, with many exceeding them through our high – quality teaching and early intervention strategies.
- Read fluently and confidently with a secure grasp of phonics and decoding strategies.
- Demonstrate strong comprehension skills, including the ability to retrieve, infer, and discuss a range of texts with understanding and interest.

- Show positive attitudes toward reading, choosing to read independently and sharing their reading experiences with peers and adults.
- Be well prepared for the transition into Key Stage 2, having established solid foundations for future reading success.

We measure the impact through ongoing formative assessments, statutory assessment outcomes (Phonics Check and KS1 test base assessments), pupil voice, and regular monitoring of teaching and learning. Reading is celebrated and valued at every stage, ensuring that each child leaves KS1 as a reader.