

## **How We Teach Reading and Phonics at Tanners Wood School**

Learning to read is one of the most important things your child will be taught at Tanners Wood. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we can to make sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible. We want your child to love reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we work hard to make sure children develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.

At Tanners Wood, early reading is taught through using the government published programme, 'Letters and Sounds'. Children are taught to use their phonic skills and knowledge for reading, but are also taught 'tricky words' which do not follow the phonic rules. They start to believe they *can* read and this does wonders for their confidence. Children in Reception class are given flash cards with the sounds they are working on, so that they can practise these at home. This gives parents the chance to be actively involved in their child's journey of learning to read. The 'Letters and Sounds' scheme continues throughout Year 1.

In the summer term of Year 1, the government asks us to do a phonics check of all children. We will let you know whether your child has met the threshold. Any children that do not achieve the required standard in Year 1 will be given additional support to enable them to catch up. These children are then re-tested at the end of Year 2 to ensure that they have made progress.

From Year 2 we follow the 'Read Write Inc.' spelling scheme. This initially revisits and consolidates prior learning (from Letters and Sounds) and then continues to teach spelling patterns in a variety of ways. The children will break the words down into their basic sounds, look at the meaning of words so they can be learnt in context. They use suffixes and prefixes to change the meaning and purpose of words within a sentence. We continue to use Read, Write, Inc throughout Key Stage 2.

Our reading books are colour banded to ensure that the book each child is reading is at the right level for them. Every colour band includes books from different reading schemes so that children experience a range of genres, text types and illustrations. We use the following published schemes; Floppy Phonics, Phonics Bug, Project X, Songbirds, Big Cat, Rigby Star, All Aboard, Superphonics, Story World, Fire Flies.

Children in Year 1 and 2 also benefit from being taught reading skills during whole class sessions. This helps the children access age appropriate texts and vocabulary whilst developing comprehension skills.

### **Reading at Key Stage 2**

We teach reading through whole class sessions. Our approach is focussed on providing high quality texts that are age appropriate and where possible, linked to other curriculum subjects and pupil interests. Extracts are sent home to read in advance of the session so that children have pre-reading opportunities to develop understanding of new and challenging vocabulary. Two sessions per week are spent teaching reading strategies to the children, including fact retrieval, deduction of word meaning, deciphering tricky words and inferring authorial intent. Children then complete reading comprehension activities giving them the opportunity to put these strategies to use. In addition to this, they have a differentiated class reading book, where for one session per week they will complete a follow up written task to assess their understanding.