

# St James' Church of England Junior School



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Executive Headteacher: Mr Simon Millington



Dear Parents/Carers

## **The Importance of Reading**

We wanted to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of reading and share with you how our school is promoting and celebrating this essential skill.

At St. James' Junior School, we firmly believe that fluent readers have access to all areas in life. Therefore, we have implemented a structured reading program to ensure that all children have ample opportunities to enhance their reading skills.

## **Reading in School**

To cultivate a love for reading, each child is provided with a book at their personalized level. These books are closely monitored by the class teacher, allowing every child to read daily either independently or with the guidance of an adult within our school. Additionally, each child has the pleasure of listening to a story during the school day, which further develops their comprehension and language skills.

Moreover, we are delighted to introduce our new school library, which houses a wide variety of books. This collection includes fiction and non-fiction, modern and classic literature, as well as books with dual-language capabilities. Through this initiative, we aim to expose our students to diverse literary options, enabling them to explore different genres and expand their understanding of the world.

## **Home Reading**

In order to encourage reading beyond the school environment, we allow children to borrow books from our library. While their levelled books will remain in the classroom, children will select a book of their choice to enjoy independently or share with a sibling or an adult at home. We encourage children to choose an appropriate book for their reading ability; however, we are also teaching them to explore the library and select books that genuinely captivate their interest. If you believe your child is consistently choosing books that are too challenging, please do not hesitate to speak with their class teacher.

We firmly believe that reading, listening to, and sharing books can make a significant difference in children's learning journey. It not only enhances their vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking skills but also opens doors to new experiences and perspectives. By promoting reading both in school and at home, we hope to instill a lifelong love for the written word and equip our pupils with the tools they need to succeed academically and beyond.

We kindly request that you support our reading initiatives by encouraging your child to read regularly at home. Whether independently or with your assistance, these reading experiences will undoubtedly contribute to their overall development. We also encourage you to engage in conversations about the books they are reading, fostering a sense of curiosity and knowledge sharing.

Thank you for your continued support in cultivating a love for reading within our school community. Together, we can empower our children to become lifelong learners and confident readers.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs. L Cossins**

**Reading lead at St James' C of E Junior School**