



Our reading schemes

## **OUR READING SCHEMES EXPLAINED...**

### **How do our reading schemes work, and how can you tell if your child is progressing at the right rate?**

#### **Which reading schemes are commonly used at Sacred Heart School?**

Sacred Heart School has a wide range of reading schemes to choose from. These include Oxford Reading Tree (ORT), Read Write Inc., Collins Big Cat and Rigby Star. Our books are new, bright and fresh, and the stories are about events that children can relate to.

Our Read Write Inc. story and non-fiction books give a good foundation in the application of phonics. They provide structured practice in decoding words and reading through phonics. The books are carefully graded so that children can read them with confidence, as soon as they have learned the sounds linked to the set.

#### **How are the reading schemes devised?**

Reading schemes are developed in conjunction with literacy experts. Most schemes begin in the Foundation Stage and progressively become more difficult. For example, Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2) books are written with a mix of high-frequency and decodable words to develop a range of reading strategies, while Key Stage 2 books cover a wide range of genres and subjects, linking to the development of reading comprehension skills

#### **How many books do children read at each stage?**

The number of books a child reads at each level depends on how much practice is needed at that stage.

#### **What do the different levels mean?**

Children learn to read at their own pace, but as a guide, the most popular reading schemes are broken down as follows:

Reception: lilac, pink A/B, red A/B

Year 1: yellow, blue, green

Year 2: orange, turquoise, purple, gold, white, lime

#### **How can you help if your child is lagging behind?**

Children learn to read at different rates, so it shouldn't become competitive. If your child is struggling, don't push him/her to read, but keep reading to him/her, and talk about what you read. This will help him/her to become inquisitive about books and want to read for himself.

### **Does Sacred Heart School use reading schemes exclusively?**

No – children should be enjoying a wide variety of books alongside reading schemes, at school and at home. Reading high-quality books is the best way to encourage a love of reading. If children learn to enjoy books, their reading ability will follow.

### **How will your child make the transition to normal books?**

Children become 'free readers' and choose their own books once they finish the reading scheme. We use a combination of readers and normal books throughout this time, for example by sending home one reader and one normal book to read together.