



## How We Teach Phonics at St. Augustine's

Learning to read is one of the most important things your child will learn at our school. Being able to read has a powerful effect on our capacity to learn, develop and grow. So, we put as much energy as we possibly can into making 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 learning to decode words.

We start by teaching 'phonics' in Reception class using the highly successful 'Read Write Inc' phonics programme. Children learn the English alphabetic code: first they learn one way to read the 40+ sounds and blend these sounds into words, then learn to read the same sounds with alternative graphemes (letters).

They experience success from the very beginning. Lively phonic books are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and 'tricky' words and, as children re-read the stories, their fluency increases.

Along with a thought-provoking introduction, prompts for thinking out loud and discussion, children are helped to read with a storyteller's voice.

Children are taught phonics in small groups with adults who are fully trained in the Read Write Inc programme. The children's progress is regularly tracked and monitored so that teachers can support those in danger of falling behind.

When they are ready, children are given reading books that closely match their ability to read with simple phrases and sentences to take home and practise. As children progress with their reading, they move through the book boxes, which are banded according to levels of difficulty. Adults assess children's reading stages often and help children to choose appropriate texts.

Each class has a book collection suitable for their age range and interest for children to access. Our well-stocked library supplements the children's reading and contains books linked to all areas of the curriculum.

