

Reading and Phonics at St Hilda's

At St Hilda's we organise the books used for our developing readers into Book Bands. This is a graded system which enables appropriate book choices to be made in order to support the development of reading skills. We aim to offer our pupils a diverse range of books, with Book Banding enabling us to choose books from different publishers.

Pupils are introduced to taking these books home in a Book bag during their time in Reception, with this practice becoming further embedded during Key Stage One. We encourage our pupils to develop a range of skills to support their progress in reading. Parent meetings are held to explain the organisation and rationale of our reading practices in school and to share ways in which parents can support their child's learning at home.

Phonics is taught via a systematic phonics programme called Letters and Sounds. Letters and Sounds are divided into six phases, with each phase building on the skills and knowledge of previous learning. Children have time to practise and develop their ability to read and spell words. They are also taught to read and spell 'tricky words', which are words with spellings that are unusual or that children have not yet been taught. Phonics is taught regularly and discretely but pupils are encouraged to apply and practise their skills within other areas of learning.