

# STONE BAY SCHOOL - EARLY READING & PHONICS

Our curriculum includes a collection of key texts linked to our topic cycles to ensure that pupils have access to and are able to experience a varied and relevant range of reading material. This enables us to have a carefully considered and sequenced approach to early reading.

This enables children working at Early Development level to build essential pre-reading knowledge, understanding and skills. These include early visual, auditory and motor skills; focus and attention skills; early communication skills; and memory and sequencing skills. These are developed by providing children access to high quality books and poetry, supported by concrete and simulated sensory experiences.

For children working at Emergent Concept level, foundations for reading are established through a clear focus on developing language comprehension and word recognition skills. This includes a focus on interaction, developing vocabulary, language conventions and background knowledge alongside phonological awareness. This is achieved through sharing high-quality stories and poems; learning a range of rhymes and simple poems; and activities that develop focused listening and attention, including Little Wandle Foundations for Phonics, focusing at Phase 1.

Children working at Basic Concept and Applying Knowledge levels who have established pre-reading and foundations for reading skills are supported to become effective early readers. Children are supported to develop a love of reading through accessing a wide range of texts and genres and there is a continued focus on developing language comprehension skills alongside more formal decoding and automatic word recognition skills.

We use the '**Little Wandle Letters and Sounds**' systematic synthetic phonics programme to ensure children build on their growing knowledge of the alphabetic code, mastering phonics to read and spell as they move through school. Alongside our phonics programme, we use carefully matched decodable reading books in order for children to apply their phonics knowledge and be able to access high quality texts and read for pleasure independently later on.

We encourage all pupils to enjoy reading in a range of different ways and support pupils in accessing any book that they take an interest in through individualised support and innovative resources/teaching.

