**A St John’s Reader**

***‘Children are a gift from the Lord’ (Psalm 127 v.3)***

**The vision of our school**

***St. John’s is a caring, Christian community striving to support its members to achieve their God given potential. Exploring our unique gifts and raising aspirations, we prepare our children for the challenges of the modern world. Following Jesus’ example, we seek to grow good people who can make a difference.***

**A Vision Statement for Reading**

We recognise that each and every children is a ‘…gift from the Lord’ consequently, developing and supporting every child in our care: spiritually, morally, socially, culturally and intellectually to become the best that they can be is fundamental to all that we do. We want our children to have the desire to aspire and achieve whatever they want in the world.

As with all curriculum subjects, our school’s Christian vision drives all of our learning in English lessons.

At St John’s, we believe that reading is an integral part of our school curriculum and a fundamental life skill that impacts on the acquisition of all knowledge. Reading holds a high status at St John’s as we recognise that reading is the core skill to everything that children do. Our aim is to ensure that children learn to read rapidly and also enjoy reading merely for pleasure. We want every child to be passionate about reading, be hungry to read wide and often, and have the desire to want to learn to read for themselves with a view to becoming lifelong readers.

**God in our Lives**

Our school is a safe place where curious children feel they can discuss and develop their understanding. Through quality first teaching, we teach our children to be inquisitive, thought provoking readers, which allows them to enjoy asking questions about the texts they are reading, and, at the same time, gain a deeper understanding of what they have read. We have carefully crafted a bespoke reading curriculum whereby all classes are exposed to a wide variety of differentiated reading materials and high quality texts across a range of genres, encouraging them to become confident, fluent readers whilst also exploring their own place in the world and their values.

**Ignite your fire**

We ignite a passion and curiosity for reading as each of our classrooms has a vibrant and inviting reading corner to encourage reading. As well as children reading daily, we also recognise the importance of children being ‘read to’ and having the opportunity to be able to sit and listen to a ‘storyteller’. Staff read daily to the children and use this opportunity to show their passion about books while getting into character using intonation and expression. Every March, we take part in ‘World Book Day’ alongside a whole school ‘Book Week’ to celebrate reading. We also hold different events within school to promote a love of reading and to raise its profile e.g. Sponsored reading events.

**Family**

In reading lessons, the children work both independently and co-operatively. We use VIPERS (an acronym which breaks down the question types) for whole class shared reading sessions which take place on a regular basis. Throughout these lessons, all children have access to the same text, vocabulary and discussion, and are given the opportunity to work alongside their peers to enhance their reading skills further. Through this approach, pupils are encouraged to rely on each other: all children learn to depend on others, to listen and share ideas in a supportive way and celebrate others’ achievements.

Every child is given a home reading book that they can take home and share with their family. Children are rewarded for their regular reading at home with raffle tickets and every term across the whole school we have a Class reading raffle and a Bronze, Silver or Gold award is presented to pupils who have read 10, 20 or 30 times at home over the half term. In Reception and KS1, all children are given a decodable reading book which is carefully matched to the phonic level they are working at. We feel it is a fundamental aspect that all children are given books matched directly to their phonic knowledge as this allows them to rehearse and consolidate previously taught sounds without being exposed to unfamiliar phonemes. In turn, this allows children to flourish in their reading and become confident, accurate and fluent readers, before moving on to more challenging texts of greater difficulty. After children have completed the Ready Steady Phonics programme, they then move on to colour banded books.

In KS2, children receive a home reading book which is linked directly to their reading level. This is assessed regularly throughout each half term to ensure an appropriate level of challenge is provided, thus ensuring children continue to improve their reading skills, as well as fluency. Once children have progressed through each stage of book bands, they become ‘’free readers’ and begin to choose their own reading books, either from the wide selection of books we have to offer or a book they choose from home. This is carefully monitored by staff and parents to ensure appropriate challenge and progression of reading, but also to ensure a love of reading.

Each year we have a group of children from Year 5/6 who act as “reading buddies” for our younger children in year 1/2. They spend time during their lunchtimes listening to the children read and discuss their reading with them.

**Truth**

Through constant shared reading opportunities, intertwined throughout the curriculum, children are able to recognise that all of God’s children should be valued and listened to. With this in mind, teachers aim to inspire a true love of reading, whereby our children are enthusiastic, fluent and motivated readers who feel confident about talking about books and authors within a community of enthusiastic readers.