

## The Willows Primary School Approach to the Teaching of Reading and Programme for Systematic Synthetic Phonics

At the Willows Primary School, we value the importance of being a confident reader. Our Curriculum is rich in high quality literature to develop their vocabulary and reading skills.

Our school uses the Bug Club Phonics programme to help your child learn to read. The Bug Club follows an approach of synthesising phonemes associated with graphemes a child sees; or put another way, learning to read by blending the sounds associated with the letters a child sees. The programme is the product of extensive research on the best way to teach children how to read.

Children in EYFS and KS1 are taught a daily Phonics session, this may be twice daily depending on individual children's needs.

Alongside the teaching of Phonics, children are given reading books which link to the Phase of Phonics they are learning. These are designed to support them in practising and consolidating the learning they have done at school. They also enable children to experience the pleasure and pride of reading their own books. There are also online versions for every printed title and a personalised website for each child.

Children in every year group continue to take books home to read with an adult, these follow a Phase/colour scheme which they have access to throughout the week. Once children are confident, fluent readers with a good base of comprehension skills, they are then able to move onto becoming free readers which enables them to have free choice of book.

Across the school, shared reading sessions in whole class situations take place. These enable children to build and develop their comprehension skills with directed questioning from the teacher. These are based around a carefully chosen high quality text. Skills are taught which cover:

- retrieval
- summarising
- vocabulary
- inference
- prediction
- author's use of language
- comparison

Children also have access to the school library where they can choose a broad range of books.