

## **The Teaching of Phonics and Reading at The Castle Primary School**

At The Castle we believe that reading is a skill which is taught through planned, systematic phonics lessons which lead to the enjoyment of all kinds of books, the appreciation of different genres and the ability to access information independently. Through their own reading, we hope that children will develop their individual tastes in literature and be able to understand and justify their own choice of books.

Our Primary aims are:

- To develop phonetic skills which lead to blending and reading fluently.
- To promote confidence and positive attitudes to reading.
- To promote and encourage good home/school links using a wide range of literature.
- To equip children with critical tools so they are able to analyse what they read.
- To give children access to a wide range of fiction and information books.
- To monitor each child's progress through the use of a range of assessment strategies e.g. On-going reading observations, application of APP, (Assessing Pupils Progress) criteria Accelerated reader .
- To support those who need extra support in acquiring reading skills through personalised reading programs or intervention groups.

'Letters and Sounds' is taught daily and provides us with games and resources to support our teaching of phonics. It aims to develop pupils' speaking and listening skills, as well as prepare pupils for reading by developing their phonic knowledge and skills. It sets out a detailed programme for teaching phonic skills, with the aim that all pupils should become fluent readers by the age of 7.

Throughout EYFS and KS1 pupils are provided with a range of fiction and non-fiction books which are regularly changed to aid progression with their reading including the acquisition of phonic skills to enable them to decode and encode words. We use a variety of phonetically de-codeable books and early readers from good quality publishers.

As pupils move into KS2 (Key Stage 2) they move into using Accelerated Reader system. This system has real books to provide variety for older children supporting and guiding them to select books from a variety of popular authors in order to stimulate and challenge them to read more. The system has quizzes to check and assess reading that can be accessed from the home, in this way parents can have a fuller understanding of how their child is succeeding.

Accelerated Reader system is very young in school, introduced in January 2015. Workshops and advice is available for parents to support their understanding.