

## **Reading at Cragside Church of England Primary School**

### **Ethos and Aims**

At Cragside, we understand that learning to read and the development of a love of reading is vital. We plan a variety of opportunities to teach and inspire our children every day with the aim of developing their reading skills, and developing a love of books and reading which will last a lifetime. We make full use of the research available to support the decisions we make about how we teach our children to read.

### **Daily Phonics Sessions**

All teachers and teaching assistants are fully trained to teach phonics through the Read Write Inc phonics scheme. In Reception, acquiring phonic skills begins with speaking and listening. Children develop their use of detail and vocabulary and their ability to listen carefully and respond accurately to sounds, questions and instructions. In the autumn term, we teach children phonemes following the sequence set out in RWI. Children learn the sound, an action and the formation of each grapheme. We practise listening for sounds at the beginning, in the middle, and at the ends of words. We also practise blending sounds together verbally to make words.

As the children become more confident, we teach them how to put these single sounds together to read and write words. Throughout the year, we constantly reinforce the importance of correct formation of these letters, with the support of Read Write Inc and practising in different ways, such as using glitter or playdough.

Weekly homework in Reception supports the teaching of phonics alongside the motivation of the school's 'Reading Challenge', which rewards children for reading practice.

Our EYFS team hold an annual meeting at the beginning of the year for parents to ensure they are fully informed about how we teach reading and support they can give at home.

In Key Stage 1, the children continue to follow the RWI scheme but we enhance and support this with a wide range of resources such as whiteboard writing activities, card games, flash cards, interactive on-line and published games, as well as the many interactive activities suggested in the scheme itself. In our outdoor learning areas children are supported further by highly engaging RWI displays including: mark making, chalking and writing in porridge oats and salt dough.

Following our participation in the RWI research through the EEF, we have found that the rigorous structure and guidance of the RWI scheme ensures a full coverage of phonic sounds and skills and that the daily lessons ensure the children apply and consolidate their knowledge in a variety of contexts. This then allows them to link phonic rules and strategies to their writing and reading tasks effectively.

### **Reading scheme**

The basis of our scheme, is the Read Write Inc reading scheme. We ensure that the books that children take home to read are carefully matched to their phonic ability. We also ensure children take home a range of fiction and non-fiction books to read with families, to further develop reading comprehension and their love of reading for pleasure. As the children become more confident readers, we supplement their reading further with a range of reading scheme books including the Oxford Reading Tree books and the electronic Bug Club reading scheme.