

# Approach to Phonics and Reading Schemes

At Castlethorpe First School, we believe in developing a reading culture throughout the school by creating welcoming book areas in classrooms and the school library which is filled with a wide variety of books. The library was recently refurbished with funds raised by FOCS and with a dedicated budget new books are purchased annually, raising the profile of reading through a print rich environment and attractive book displays.

Our main reading scheme is Oxford reading tree and we use 'Letters and Sounds' a synthetic phonic scheme, daily throughout the school. We have also recently invested in Nelson's Handwriting scheme. This is taught three times a week and our aim is that all our children leave our school being able to confidently join their handwriting.

Alongside Oxford Reading Tree texts, we have integrated a selection of fiction and non-fiction 'book banded' texts into the 'stage' boxes. Children are matched to a stage box in accordance with their reading ability and are free to select a text to take home on a daily basis. This is assessed by the class teacher to ensure children are reading within the correct stage box.

Throughout all key stages children also have regular access to group guided reading sessions, where texts are explored with a particular focus eg: use of vocabulary or the structure of different text types.

Parents are integral part in the children's 'reading journey'. We encourage children to read at home on a daily basis and communication between school and home is recorded in a 'Reading Diary'. We have governors and members of the community to come and read with children both individually and as a group.