

## SMAS Reading Schemes and Home Reading Organisation

### EYFS and KS1

At St Mary's, the children follow a 'pathway' approach to home readers.

Pathway 1: Phonics Reading Scheme (ULS Books)

Pathway 2: Coloured Book Bands

Children access both pathways concurrently until they no longer need the phonics pathway. This means that they will bring two books home on book change day – one matched to their phonics learning, and one Coloured Book Band Book.

This approach enables pupils to develop as well rounded readers, by having exposure to fully decodable texts to enable them to gain confidence in decoding, as well as having exposure to texts that develop comprehension skills. The ULS Phonics books aim to consolidate their learning in phonics lessons, so they should be able to sound out the words in the book with confidence, as these books will be matched to your child's current phonics ability. Coloured Book Band Books will enable children to develop skills in inferring meaning from words and pictures, and develop key reading strategies such as using the context of a sentence or the pictures to work out unfamiliar words. When reading the Coloured Book Band Books with your child, the emphasis should be on discussion of the text, pictures and story, not just on sounding out the words.

### Weekly Book Change Rotas

Books will be changed on Mondays and Thursdays. On each book change day, children will take home a Phonics Book and a Coloured Book Band Book. The children will also visit the library once a week, where they will have the opportunity to take one book home. Each child will therefore have the opportunity to take 5 books home per week.

### Assessment of Coloured Book Band Levels

Each child's book band level is formally reviewed by the class teacher once a half term. This will be a 1:1 assessment of your child's reading, using their current Coloured Book Band level. During the rest of the half term, the children are closely monitored to ensure their book band level is appropriate for their current reading ability, through guided reading sessions with the teacher and 1:1 reading with an LSA/ parent volunteer where required. On some occasions, it may be necessary for a child's Coloured Book Band level to be reviewed more frequently. When assessing the children, the teacher will look at their reading ability as a whole, including their ability to infer meaning from the text and pictures, as well as their ability to retain and retell stories and give their opinion about a text. Often, the focus' for reading the Coloured Book Band texts are comprehension, retelling, book talk, predicting and making up stories based on what they have read.

### Assessment of Phonics Books

The ULS Phonics Book each child takes home will be dependent on their attainment and progress in their phonics lessons. The book they bring home will be a consolidation of sounds learnt in school. As part of ULS Phonics, the children are assessed every three weeks and at the end of each phase. This information is used to help choose appropriate reading books for each child.