St Thomas' Church of England Aided Primary School
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Phonics and Early Reading at St Thomas' Primary School

At St Thomas' Primary School, we are committed to ensuring every child becomes a confident, fluent, and enthusiastic reader.

Phonics Programme (EYFS and Key Stage 1) We follow **Twinkl Phonics**, a Department for Education (DfE) validated Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) programme.

- **Daily Teaching:** Phonics is taught daily every morning from **9:00 am to 9:30 am** across EYFS and Key Stage 1.
- **Structured Progression:** Lessons follow a consistent, systematic sequence of sound recognition, blending, segmenting, and tricky word recognition, with targeted 'keep-up' support for any pupil who needs extra practice.

Early Reading Scheme To build confidence and fluency, pupils read from the **Twinkl Rhino Readers** decodable reading scheme.

- Each book is carefully matched to the exact phonics level and sounds the child has been taught in class, ensuring children can apply their phonic knowledge independently without guessing words.

Developing Fluency and Comprehension (Key Stage 2) Once pupils have securely completed the Twinkl Phonics programme and Rhino Readers scheme, they transition onto a rich range of **high-quality texts** suited to their reading ability and age.

- **Daily Reading Sessions:** Key Stage 2 pupils take part in daily whole-class reading sessions every morning from **9:00 am to 9:30 am**.
- **Reading VIPERS:** Sessions are structured around **VIPERS** (*Vocabulary, Infer, Predict, Explain, Retrieve, and Summarise*) within their class text, developing deep comprehension, critical thinking, and a lifelong love of literature.

Supporting Reading at Home We value strong partnerships with parents and carers and hold regular **Phonics and Reading Parent Workshops** throughout the year to share practical strategies for supporting your child at home.

For further information about our phonics and reading curriculum, please contact our English Lead, **Mrs Laura Barratt**, via the school office.