



## Information about Phonics and Reading

### **Phonics**

At Orchard Lea Junior School, early reading is taught using synthetic phonics as the main approach to reading. Pupils are systematically taught the phonemes (sounds) for the corresponding graphemes (letters), how to blend the sounds for reading (decoding), and how to segment the sounds in order to write words. They are taught to use their phonic skills and knowledge as their first approach to reading, but are also taught high frequency words which do not completely follow the phonic rules. The school follows the government published programme Letters and Sounds. Children will be taught to use the correct terminology when using phonics programmes which will be embedded further through the teaching of spelling.

### **Reading Schemes**

At Orchard Lea Junior School, all our scheme reading books are colour banded. In Year 3 your child will be given a colour band to choose their home reading book from which will help to ensure that the book they select is at about the right reading level for them. Every colour band includes books from a range of reading schemes so that they will experience a range of stories, text types and illustrations. The majority of books within the early book bands can be decoded using phonics skills and knowledge. A range of published schemes are used including Rigby Star Phonics, Rigby Rockets, Oxford Reading Tree, Sparklers, and Literacy Land by Pearsons.

### **Reading for Pleasure**

At Orchard Lea Junior School, we encourage pupils to develop and maintain a love of reading through whole school reading challenges and using class time to visit the library with their teacher and borrowing books from our school collection to enjoy with their families. Other activities include class stories, Author visits and Book Weeks. We encourage families to share books with their child through our home-school reading records. Pupils have a weekly school library visit and take home books for sharing with their parents alongside their own reading book. Their library ticket enables them to borrow three library books at a time. We hope that these habits continue as pupils get older – once they are independent readers, pupils select their own reading material, but our school librarian is still on hand to guide and advise pupils. Our librarian is also very happy to speak to parents who want to support their child in widening their reading habits