# Reading Intent

At St Mary’s Fields we know that reading is not just an essential life skill; it has been proven to improve children's vocabulary, their mental wellbeing, and their ability to empathise. Our goal is that by the time children leave St Mary’s Fields, all of them **can** read and all of them **choose** to read.

We have created a reading curriculum which develops the five essential areas of reading: fluency; comprehension; responding and reviewing; grammar and practical skills. We encourage and develop the behaviors that they need to be discerning readers as they read frequently and widely. As well as this, we ensure that all children participate in a range of experiences which foster a lifelong love of reading. This curriculum is delivered through synthetic phonics, a linked approach to shared and guided reading, reading across the curriculum, regular opportunities for independent reading and hearing quality texts read aloud every day. All of these are essential components as they offer the range of opportunities needed to develop fluent, enthusiastic and critical readers.

Through our intent we aim to: (to be read in conjunction with the whole school curriculum intent)

* Place the importance of reading at the heart of children’s learning
* Support the acquisition of new language through the explicit teaching of vocabulary throughout the whole curriculum
* Provide the opportunity for children to learn more about their own culture and that of others, through sharing and celebrating similarities and differences between us all
* Teach children to not only have a voice, but to use it in order to enquire, challenge and communicate their ideas and opinions to problem solve and be creative
* Empower our children to become independent and resilient in their learning and beyond
* Motivate children to have high aspirations for their futures in learning, work and in wider life.