St Bede’s is a school that loves books. We have access to a wide range of fiction and non-fiction books, which are used across the curriculum. Reading is at the heart of our curriculum and our classroom environments from our nursery provision up to year six, have a wealth of reading material.  Each school has a dedicated reading area and we benefit from a well-stocked central library.

Our teachers love read to our children and we recognise the importance of the teacher as an inspirational role model.

Teaching a child to read is the greatest gift that we can give a child in our school. Because of this, we see it as a primary purpose of our curriculum. From Early Years to Year 6, we ensure that our children not only learn the skills and knowledge to enable them to read, but also to develop positive life-long dispositions and attitudes towards reading – that will take our children through secondary school and into adulthood.

Teaching children to ‘decode’ or ‘read’ in its most basic form is a key driver for our Early Years and Key Stage 1 curriculum. Once children can ‘read’, through a robust and systematic approach, the world opens up to them. It is our duty to ensure that our children are ready to embrace both the literary and wider world. In Key Stage 1 we currently use the Read Write Inc system for teaching phonics and in EYFS our system for teaching Synthetic phonics is Sounds Write. For Academic year 24/25 we will have made the transition fully to Sounds Write for both EY and for KS2. We have had extensive support from experts in both systems to ensure fidelity to both schemes.

You can find more information on both systems here:

[Read, Write, Inc](https://admin.ruthmiskin.com/media/uploads/website/phonics/read_version_introduction_phonics.pdf)

[Sounds Write](https://sounds-write.co.uk/support-for-parents-and-carers/)

Research shows that approximately 90% of the vocabulary that we meet is only ever met through reading it; reading high quality texts, coupled with an interesting and knowledge rich wider curriculum, is key to securing our children’s confidence and mastery of the English language.

**Within our broader English Curriculum planning, our intent for reading is clear:**

Rich texts will be the central driver to the English curriculum – promoting a love of reading, excellent models of language, cultural broadening and confidence.

Children become fluent and age appropriate readers across Early Years and Key Stage 1 – so that they can access and comprehend all that Key Stage 2 has to offer, gaining a vitally growing vocabulary across the key stage.

With few exceptions, all children reach the expected standard in Year 1 phonics, with word reading fluency being the primary driver of the Year 1 reading curriculum – so they are ready to gain greater reading comprehension skills as their decoding secures.

We know that reading at home is equally as important as reading in school. We want our children to have access to high quality texts whenever they read. With this as our inspiration, all children in KS1 are taught through phonics before moving onto the CUSP system for teaching reading.