



## Whiteparish All Saints

### Church of England Primary School

Whiteparish All Saints Church of England Primary School, an 'Outstanding' school based in Sailsbury, has used the Scholastic Reading Audit – which helps teachers to evaluate their school's reading performance across 12 types of reading using a simple 'red, amber, green' rating system – to ensure that its approach to literacy remains at the forefront of innovation.

Headteacher Kate Heathcote was introduced to the audit in summer 2018 when it was the topic of discussion in an online school leadership forum. "Reading is a major strength of our school, which is reflected in our Key Stage SATs results over recent years, and time is set aside every day for children to develop their individual and group reading skills," Kate explained. "We are keen to promote both the enjoyment of books and to develop fluent readers from an early age, and have reading corners in all classrooms. However, with a new English lead taking up post in 2018-19, **the Scholastic Reading Audit presented the ideal opportunity to undertake some external, independent, benchmarking.**"

Kate said the online audit, which highlights a school's reading strengths and identifies areas for development, "reiterated where we thought we were and clarified what needed to be done". She added: "Whilst we initially did it to see if anything was significantly missing, as a result of the Scholastic Reading Audit we have done a lot more to improve again. For example, whilst we do lots of reading for pleasure, the audit showed we were not making the most of our library space, were not properly set up with little reading areas, and not geared up for engaging parents. The audit also introduced the principle of reciprocal reading, which we were not previously aware of. Scholastic subsequently delivered a staff meeting on this which was very good and colleagues are taking on board ideas around it."

The school has also commissioned two Scholastic learning resources on the back of the audit – Pie Corbett's Reading Spine, which supports the teaching

of comprehension, drama and writing, and Barrington Stoke fiction books. "The Reading Spine is being used by children in reception through to Year 6 and when pupils read each set of books they get a certificate – we can directly measure the impact of Pie Corbett's books by how many children take up this challenge," Kate said. "The Barrington Stoke books have hooked pupils in with reading material that interests and engages them, from football to mountain biking. They are also proving effective for learners with specific learning difficulties such as mild dyslexia – especially boy readers – and these children are first to 'bagsy' them. As a school, our issue with reading is mainly groups of boys in Year 6 and in Year 5. None of the Year 6 had been reading fluently previously but the impact of our investment is reflected in our SATs results this year. The work with Year 5 is about preparing them for Year 6."

**The Reading Spine is being used by children in reception through to Year 6 and when pupils read each set of books they get a certificate – we can directly measure the impact of Pie Corbett's books by how many children take up this challenge.**

Now with over 10,000 books in the school, many purchased through Scholastic, Kate said the relationship had been "very beneficial": "My experience of Scholastic has been entirely positive and we have seen the outcomes of that. The Reading Audit was really useful and, because it included questions that we had not thought to ask ourselves and the quality of information coming back was so high, it proved to be a good self-evaluation piece that I have recommended to other schools in our cluster."

*Case study developed: July 2019*